

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

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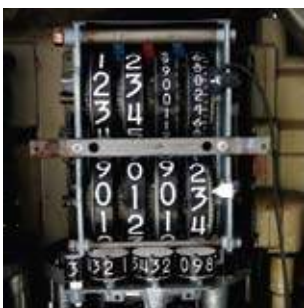
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## INSIDE



### Old Pumps

As gasoline marches toward \$4 a gallon, thousands of old-fashioned pumps can't register more than \$3.99.

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### Wildfires

Dry, windy weather fueled several wildfires on Florida's central Atlantic coast Monday.

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From his first day at Morehouse College, Joshua Packwood has been a standout.

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## CPA under state of emergency

By AGNES E. DONATO  
[agnes\\_donato@saipantribune.com](mailto:agnes_donato@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

**G**ov. Benigno R. Fitial declared the Commonwealth Ports Authority under a state of emergency yesterday to deflect any legal issues that might arise from his takeover of the autonomous agency.

The state of emergency legally allows the governor to assume direct control of CPA immediately.

*See CPA ON PAGE 4*

### CUC bills resident \$40,000 for power

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

A residential customer was shocked when she recently received her monthly power bill showing that she owes CUC \$40,000.

And the most incredible part: The cus-

*See CUC ON PAGE 4*



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

### 2008 LIBERATION DAY CANDIDATES

The four lovely 2008 Liberation Day Queen candidates, from left, Haoting Zhang Romolor, 18; Carley V. Laniyo, 16; Kaylynn Angelynn L. Sablan, 16; and Luciann Marie M. Indalecio, 15, gather for a photo with Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, leftmost, shortly after their introduction at the Saipan Mayor's Office at Afetnas Square in San Antonio yesterday. *See related story on Page 6.*



### 10,000-plus dead and rising in China quake

By WILLIAM FOREMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**DUJIANGYAN, China (AP)**—Rescue workers dug through schools and homes turned into rubble by China's worst earthquake in three decades to reach thousands of victims trapped be-

*See 10,000 ON PAGE 4*

Rescue workers pull out a young girl from under the rubble of a collapsed school in Juyuan, southwestern China's Sichuan province, Tuesday, May 13, 2008. **AP**

## QUARTERLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS Economy still down, tourism numbers up

By MARK RABAGO  
[mark\\_rabago@saipantribune.com](mailto:mark_rabago@saipantribune.com)  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

While majority of economic indicators continued to slump in the first quarter of 2008, visitor arrivals and hotel occupancy figures seem to show that the Commonwealth's tourism industry is on the mend.

The Department of Commerce's Cen-

tral Statistics Division made public the January-March 2008 Economic Indicator report yesterday and, like previous releases, it again does not paint a rosy picture of the islands' economy.

Business gross revenue, general fund revenue, imports, exports, banking activity, remittance, and building permits continued to slide in the first quarter of 2008,

*See ECONOMY ON PAGE 4*

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## Local

# Labor turns over 350 unclaimed checks, tickets to Finance

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has turned over to the Finance Department 200 expired checks and 150 plane tickets owed to nonresident workers that have remained uncollected.

Finance Secretary Eloy Inos is now in charge of those unclaimed checks and tickets after Labor's administrative hearing office forwarded the items to Finance last month,

Labor public education and outreach director Rose Ada-Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"The Secretary of Finance will be making a decision as to what steps they are going to take," said Ada-Hocog, who, as then Labor administrative division director, gathered the unclaimed checks and tickets.

She said Finance and the Attorney General's Office are working closely to determine what they are going to

do with the items.

Since *Saipan Tribune* published the news about the unclaimed checks and tickets in January 2008, Ada-Hocog said that only one person went to Labor's administrative hearing office to verify if he has a check. She said they referred the person to Finance.

The public education and outreach director advised workers who believe they have unclaimed checks or tickets to submit a request in

writing to Finance.

In the request, the workers should explain that they just want to know if their names are on the list and state how much they are owed.

Ada-Hocog, however, stressed that even if the names of the workers are on the list, the checks and tickets are really outdated or expired.

"I suggest they give time for the Secretary of Finance and our legal team who are trying to work these things

out and see how they could get the checks either reissued or whatever decision they will come up with," she said.

Labor earlier disclosed that the total amount of these checks and tickets is over \$100,000.

The checks have different amounts, with the smallest at \$4.25, while many are in the thousands of dollars.

Most of the checks and tickets were issued to

Chinese garment workers. These items were previously in possession of the Labor Enforcement Section before they were transferred to the administrative hearing office when the Labor Collections Unit was created in the latter part of 2006.

Some of the checks and tickets were issued in 1992 and the latest were made in 2007. Some of the issuing companies have already closed.



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# Admin looks forward to working with Domenech

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Fitial administration is upbeat about working with the Washington's new top official for insular affairs.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday that the CNMI government has had a good relationship with Nikolao Pula during the latter's stint as acting deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs. The governor hopes that relationship will continue with Douglas Domenech, who was appointed to the post last weekend.

Domenech also serves as deputy chief of staff to U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne.

"We haven't had much contact with [Domenech] in the past, unlike with Pula who has been with the Office of Insular Affairs for a long time and who is from the [Pacific] islands. But we think it's gratifying that Domenech is apparently very close to Secretary Kempthorne. We view that as a positive sign—as Interior said in their announcement, it shows Secretary Kempthorne's commitment to the islands," said Reyes.

The next year is seen as a critical time for U.S.-Commonwealth relations, with the CNMI's wage, labor and immigration policies just placed under federal control. In the next year, federal representatives

will work with local leaders in drafting regulations detailing how the new "federalization" measure will be implemented.

As the U.S. government's new point man for Washington's relationships with the insular areas, Domenech is expected to play a key role in the process of promulgating the regulations—at least in the next eight months that he will be in office. His is a political position. New appointees are expected to be named when the administration changes in January 2009.

"It's true, a lot of things are beyond our control. We don't know who is going to be the next Interior secretary. There's a lot of uncertainty. I guess we'll just have to deal with it as we go

forward," said Reyes.

According to an Interior Department press release, Domenech joined the Bush administration in July 2001 to serve as Interior's deputy director of external and intergovernmental affairs. From 2002 to 2006, he served as White House liaison to the Interior Department before being promoted to deputy chief of staff.

Domenech, who was born in the United States, is of Puerto Rican descent and lived in the Dominican Republic, Panama, and Puerto Rico as a child. He has a degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management from Virginia Tech and worked on national and state natural resource issues for 15 years prior to his appointment.

Among his duties at the de-

partment, Domenech represents the Secretary on the Advisory Board of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico, and often travels to the U.S. Virgin Islands on Interior business. He also represents the Department on the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico Status and on the U.S. delegation to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

## New Fund contribution rate by Oct. 1

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has told the central government it will have to pay at the new contribution rate beginning Oct. 1, 2008.

Fund administrator Mark Agumon said in a letter to Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos that the new pension contribution rate for the defined benefit plan—37.4 percent of the total payroll—will go into effect in fiscal year 2009.

The rate, as recommended by the Fund's actuary, is an increase from the current rate of 36.7 percent.

"This increase is necessary to ensure that the Fund continues to meet its current as well as future obligations to more than 2,000 retirees. Kindly make necessary adjustments to apply this new rate effective FY2009," Agumon said.

The pension program's actuary, Buck Consultants, based the new rate on Retirement Fund data as of Oct. 1, 2006.

At that time, the Retirement Fund had accrued liability of \$987.15

million, and assets of \$472.7 million. This meant an unfunded liability of \$514.46 million.

According to Buck Consultants, in order to achieve full funding of the defined benefit plan by the recently adjusted 2045 deadline, the government must pay \$51.62 million a year to the Retirement Fund.

The central government has not made contributions to the Fund since early 2006. Recently, the Legislature passed a law allowing the government to pay at a rate of 11 percent.

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# Charter change eyed to avoid yearly elections

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Elected officials may have their terms cut or extended by one year if the Commonwealth is to avoid the cost of having an election every year.

The first election for a Northern Marianas delegate will take

place this year, and every even-numbered year after that. Local elections are conducted every odd-numbered year.

Gregorio Sablan, executive director at the Commonwealth Election Commission, said yesterday that having yearly elections is not completely unusual in the United States, as some

jurisdictions do it.

However, it could be expensive for the cash-strapped government, which has to pay for conducting the elections for the existing CNMI positions and the new U.S. post. Sablan estimates this November's election to cost \$50,000.

House Speaker Arnold Pala-

cios said yesterday that lawmakers are looking at how best to solve the problem.

"We can't go through an election every year. A law must be passed to make an adjustment somewhere," Palacios said.

Sablan said a constitutional amendment is necessary to make the local elections coin-

cide with the U.S. elections. "I think it's the best way. It's easier to amend our Constitution than the U.S. Constitution," he said.

The CNMI Constitution can be amended by a constitutional convention, or through a legislative or a popular initiative. Each process requires placing the proposal on the ballot for voter ratification.

The election for the delegate position will take place on Nov. 4, 2008. But the electoral process begins in less than two months. The Election Commission will accept nominating petitions and candidacy documents from July 7 to August 6.

The new CNMI delegate will assume office on Jan. 12, 2009.

## CPA

From Page 1

This follows the executive order that the governor issued Monday to abolish the CPA board of directors, which had been unable to muster a quorum and act on urgent measures to save CPA from further financial damage.

The executive order alone does not allow Fitial to take over the ports authority until the Legislature has been given 60 days to look at—and possi-

bly, amend or void—the governor's action.

With the state of emergency, the governor can now start running the ports authority. He can also use central government funds on CPA and take personnel actions at the airports and seaports.

"We want to make sure we're doing everything under the law," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

CPA is nearing a technical default on the 1998 indenture on its airport revenue bonds. If the default occurs, CPA could be

forced to pay the entire principal and interest of the bonds immediately. Bank of Guam, which serves as the bond trustee, could also issue a default notice and take over the Saipan International Airport.

Such a default would also have a negative impact on the CNMI government's overall ability to borrow money. Proposals are pending in the Legislature to float a bond to pay for the government's debts to the NMI Retirement Fund.

"[This state of emergency] declaration is necessary to en-

sure that a CPA technical default does not have a cumulative impact on the CNMI economy, which has been in constant and prolonged downward trend as shown, among other examples, by the closure of several businesses, the withdrawal of Japan Airlines from CNMI service, the decline in tourism, and the persistent rise in fuel and electricity costs," the governor said.

Using his state of emergency powers, Fitial yesterday issued several directives raising CPA rates, imposing austerity measures, and ending the incentive

program for airlines flying to the Northern Marianas.

On March 1, 1998, CPA entered into a \$20 million airport revenue bond indenture agreement with Bank of Guam as the bond trustee. This agreement requires CPA to make timely payments and to maintain a 1.25 revenue-to-bond payment ratio at all times in the duration of the bond. In other words, for every \$1 owed on the bond, CPA must have \$1.25 of net revenue in reserve.

CPA, which still owes \$17 million, has been making punc-

tual payments. But it has failed to meet the required debt ratio of 1.25.

In a recent report, CPA's acting comptroller said that first quarter losses from the airline incentive program have totaled \$1.2 million. If the Airline Incentive Program is continued and rate increases are not increased, CPA's projected total deficit will be at least \$3.4 million. By eliminating the airline incentive program alone, the acting comptroller projects a \$1.97-million reduction in losses.

## ECONOMY

From Page 1

according to the report.

On the brighter side, visitor arrivals to the CNMI posted quarterly growth for the first time in years, while daily hotel rate and hotel occupancy inched up, which are positive news to the tourism industry of the Commonwealth.

Business gross revenue decreased by 8.3 percent to some \$416 million in the first three months of 2008 compared to about \$454 million in the first quarter of 2007.

In contrast, government expenditure grew in the January-March 2008 period to \$43.9

million from \$42.3 million posted in the same three months of 2007—a 3.8 percent rise.

General fund revenues—taxes and fees collected—also showed a decline of 8.8 percent to \$40 million in the first quarter of 2008 from the \$43.8 million recorded in the first quarter of 2007.

Imports also took a hit, decreasing by 18.3 percent from the 114,440 tons in the first quarter of 2007 to a mere 93,460 in the first quarter of 2008.

With only seven garment manufacturers still in operation, exports continued its downward trend and experienced a mammoth 53.34-percent drop to \$47.54 million. Exports totaled \$101.89 million a year ago.

Banking activity was also on the negative with total deposits shrinking 3 percent to \$515.53 million compared to \$531.2 million in the immediately preceding fourth quarter of 2007.

Total loans also dipped by 3 percent to \$156.72 million in January-March 2008 from \$161.61 million in the last three months of 2007.

With the downsizing of the garment industry, remittances have also fared poorly the past several years and the same is true in the first quarter of 2008, going down 18 percent to \$20.8 million from the \$25.4 million remitted in the January-March period of 2007.

Building permits also dwindled to 57 in January-March

2008 from the 64 issued in the October-December 2007 period.

The CNMI also had 4.4 percent fewer telephone lines in the first quarter of the 2008 compared to the same period in 2007—down to 28,631 from 29,939.

Visitor arrivals to the Commonwealth, meanwhile, witnessed a 1 percent increase as 110,690 tourists came to the islands in the first three months of 2008, compared to 109,643 during the January-March period in 2007.

Hotel room rate also increased to \$101.1 in the first quarter of 2008, up 5.5 percent from the \$95.83 recorded in the first quarter of 2007.

Hotel occupancy rate is also encouraging, increasing by 1.2 percent to 70.6 percent in the January-March 2008 period. It was 69.8 percent in the first quarter of 2007.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association also witnessed a 9.1 percent rise in auto sales in the period, having sold 25 more cars than the 275 it disposed of in the first quarter of 2007.

The Commerce report also indicated that prices of consumer goods continued their upward trend in the first quarter of 2008.

The Consumer Price Index witnessed a 1.7 increase to 114.1 during the first quarter of 2008. It was 112.4 a year ago.

This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100 during the 2003 base period costs \$114.1 in the first three months of the current year.

The most alarming rise in prices were recorded for medical care and food. Medical care went up 7.9 to 107.9, while food rose 7.1 to 112.

Alcoholic beverages (2.5 increase to 106.4), recreation (2.1 to 102.4), apparel (0.6 to 102.4), and housing and utilities (0.1 to 141) also increased in the first three months of the year.

Transportation and other goods and services remained the same, while education and communication even showed a decrease in cost (-0.3).

## CUC

From Page 1

tomer apparently incurred the \$40,000 in only 24 hours use of power.

The customer, who asked not to be identified, told *Saipan Tri-*

bune yesterday that upon receiving the bill, she asked herself what business or hotel she owns.

"Not only was I scared, I couldn't sleep!" said the customer, who is currently employed with the government.

*Saipan Tribune* contacted the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

yesterday for comments but, according to acting Power Division manager Gary P. Camacho, he will relay the issue to CUC executive director Antonio Muna.

After getting the bill, the customer said she immediately went to CUC the following day to dispute it. She said CUC informed

her that "it was a wrong date."

"Right now I'm still waiting for CUC's answer as to how much I really owe," said the employee who showed to *Saipan Tribune* a copy of the bill that she photographed.

The customer said she also learned that three or four other

residential customers received the same erroneous monthly power billings in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$40,000.

The government employee has two air-conditioners at home that the family uses only at night. Their average monthly consumption is \$200.

When CUC announced the new power rates in early May, the employee called a family meeting where she explained to her children the situation.

"I asked my children how they could help out and explain their responsibilities in conserving energy further," she said.

## 10,000

From Page 1

neath slabs of concrete, as the death toll of 10,000 appeared certain to rise on Tuesday.

A day after the powerful 7.9 magnitude quake struck, state media said rescue workers had only just reached the epicenter in Wenchuan county—cut off by the disaster and where the number of casualties was unknown.

But the official Xinhua News Agency reported 10,000 people "remained buried" in Mianzhu, 60 miles from the epicenter.

Heavy rain, which had contributed to the difficulty of reaching the epicenter, continued to impede efforts and a group of paratroopers called off a mission to the area, Xinhua said.

The tremors caused a wide

swath of damage across central China, leveling buildings and severing roads and communications. It sent people rushing out of their offices across the country in Beijing, and was felt as far away as Vietnam.

Nearly 10,000 people died in Sichuan province alone and 300 others in other provinces and the mega-city of Chongqing, Xinhua reported.

A 40-car freight train with 13 gasoline tankers derailed in the quake and was still burning Tuesday, the agency said, with no word on casualties.

Just east of the epicenter, 1,000 students and teachers were killed or missing at a collapsed high school in Beichuan county. The six- or seven-story building was reduced to a pile of rubble about two yards high, according to Xinhua. Another 900 students were feared dead when

their school collapsed in Juyuan, which is in Dujiangyan city.

The Beichuan school had more than 2,000 students and teachers in three school buildings. The other two buildings collapsed partially, Xinhua said.

Up to 5,000 people were killed and 80 percent of the buildings had collapsed in Beichuan, Xinhua said, in a region of small cities and towns set amid steep hills north of Sichuan's provincial capital of Chengdu. The government has poured more than 16,000 troops into the area with tens of thousands more on the way.

In Dujiangyan, rescue teams were trying to get to a woman who was eight months pregnant and trapped in a seven-story apartment building that collapsed.

Nearby, a man in his late 50s who refused to give his name,

said his father was missing in the rubble of his home. "Yesterday, when the earthquake happened our home collapsed really quickly and I heard my father yell, 'Help, help, help,'" the man said.

Buildings were knocked down on every block and corpses were laid out in the street. People were seeking rides out of town, where makeshift tent cities were being erected as shelter from rain that began Tuesday and could affect rescue efforts.

Zhou Chun, a 70-year-old retired mechanic, was fleeing toward the city of Chengdu with a soiled light blue blanket draped over his shoulders.

"My wife died in the quake. My house was destroyed," he said. "I am going to Chengdu, but I don't know where I'll live."

Zhou and other survivors were pulling luggage and clutch-

ing plastic bags of food amid a steady drizzle and the constant wall of ambulances.

Premier Wen Jiabao, who flew to the area to oversee rescue efforts, said a push was on to clear roads and restore electricity as soon as possible.

China's Ministry of Health issued an appeal for blood donations to help the victims of the quake. "There is a large demand for blood in quake-hit areas and we hope the public actively donate blood," spokesman Mao Quan said.

Before the rescue workers arrived, the only previous contact with hard-hit Wenchuan, Xinhua said, was a satellite phone call from the local Communist Party secretary to appeal for air drops of tents, food and medicine.

The official, Wang Bin, said there were 57 reported deaths so far, with more than 300 other

people seriously injured. He said the figures were likely to rise as there was no information from mountainous areas.

He estimated that at least 30,000 of the county's 105,000 residents slept outside Monday night.

Fifteen missing British tourists were believed to be in that area at the time of the quake and were "out of reach," Xinhua reported.

They were likely visiting the Wolong Nature Reserve, home to more than 100 giant pandas, whose fate also was not known, Xinhua said. It reported that 60 pandas at another breeding center in Chengdu were safe.

Disasters pose a test to China's communist government, whose mandate rests heavily on maintaining order, delivering economic growth and providing relief in emergencies.



## 363 NMI families avail of housing assistance

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Housing and Urban Development in Honolulu has reported that a significant number of local families in the CNMI have availed of the Section 8 Housing Assistance Program.

The Housing Assistance Program, which is locally administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., assisted a total number of 363 families throughout the CNMI.

The federally funded Section 8 program provides housing assistance to very low and low-income families.

According to Michael Flores, director of Public and Indian Housing, Housing Choice Vouchers allow very low-income families to choose and lease or purchase safe, decent, and affordable

privately-owned rental housing.

Flores said the CNMI initially had 215 Housing Choice Vouchers, "but as a result of Typhoon Chaba and Typhoon TingTing, we added 148 additional vouchers that we have since allowed NMHC to help 363 families."

NMHC administers subdivisions in Garapan, Mihaville and Koblerville on Saipan, and on Tinian and Rota for a total of 142 units and receives about \$1.7 million in annual funding to provide assistance to the families living in them.

The amount, which is shouldered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, depends on the income level of the family. The program assists in paying the fair market rent 30 percent of their adjusted income or 10 percent of their gross income, whichever is greater.

However, in cases when

families do not have any source of income at all, the Section-8 Housing Assistance Program fully subsidizes them and pays the entire contract rent.

Housing officials said the federally funded program caters to families of lower income bracket that are not able to afford owning a home.

According to Flores, the Section 8 program is one of the largest programs represented in HUD's annual budget.

HUD provides roughly \$3 million to the CNMI's economy on an annual basis to help people pay rent.

"These are far short of what the needs are... We met with the board and the board has expressed the need to do more with what federal funds that are available. We hope to be able to do that as our funding will permit," Flores said.

## EMO: Haze not due to Anatahan volcano

The Emergency Management Office has clarified that yesterday's hazy weather condition was not related to vog emanating from the Anatahan volcano.

EMO said that after consulting with the U.S. Geological Survey, it was learned that a light to variable plume at Ana-

tahan was seen via satellite heading northwest away from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Also, based on the SO2 analyzer reading at the Emergency Management Office, it indicated 115ppb(parts per billions) as of 3pm yesterday.

All mariners were reminded,

however, to take precautionary measures due to low visibility in open waters.

The public is encouraged to tune in to local radio broadcast or local news sources and log in at [www.cnmiemo.gov.mp](http://www.cnmiemo.gov.mp) on the Internet for any other statements and advisories. **(EMO)**

## Tinian High wins academic challenge bowl

The Tinian High School triumphed over three other high schools during a CNMI-wide Academic Challenge Bowl Competition last weekend.

The competition, which was an online competition, consisted of 25 timed questions about the subjects the cadets study in the JROTC curriculum.

According to JROTC director LTC Robert Gay, the curriculum encompasses a myriad of academic disciplines to include, health, first aid, fitness, leadership, military history, the Constitution, Bill of Rights, psychology, environment, land navigation, and communication skills, to name a few.

There were three levels of competition. These categories included first year cadets, second year cadets and 3rd and 4th year cadets. Tinian swept all three categories.

Academic Challenge Competitions within JROTC Cadet Command are taking a more prominent place in the JROTC curriculum. Cadets across the nation are excited about these competitions and there will be more events of this nature in the future.

Gay spoke to the CNMI cadets following the competition and told them how proud the entire community is for their dedication to excellence and their accomplishments.

Other schools that participated were Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Rota High School. **(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)**

## Japanese group to unveil new monument

Close to 200 members of the Nenpou Shinkyou Kongouji from Japan are expected to arrive on Saipan this weekend to witness the unveiling of a new monument built on Banzai Cliff.

The memorial monument was built and donated by the Head Temple of Nenpou Shinkyou Kongouji to honor the hundreds of Japanese civilians who jumped to their deaths screaming a final salute to their emperor in the last days of battle on Saipan during World War II.

The 200 Japanese visitors will conduct a cleanup activity on Sunday morning at Banzai Cliff in preparation for the unveiling.

The ceremony itself will take place on Monday, May 19, from 1:30pm to 2:15pm.

The unveiling ceremony will be attended by Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez, Department of Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario, Nenpou Shinkyou president Ryoyu Okeya, and other government officials and representatives from Japan and the CNMI. **(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)**

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For more information, please visit [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu) or call 234-5498 ext. 1524. Special thanks to Saipan Grand Hotel for hosting the NMC Information Session.

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## Zoning Board Public Hearing Establishment of an Adult Business Overlay Zoning District and Amendment of Criteria for Siting of Adult Businesses

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking comments on a proposed regulation to establish an adult business overlay zoning district. The proposed district would cover land within 200 feet of each side of the centerline of Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Rd.) as follows: from Chalan Msgr. Guerrero north to a line extending along the center of Commonwealth Avenue (south side of Sugar King Park). If a lot or building extends beyond 200 feet from the centerline, only the part within 200 feet would be allowed to be used for an adult business.

The Board is also seeking public comment on a proposal to amend the requirements on the Saipan Zoning Law for siting adult businesses in adult business overlay zones. The proposed amendment would require new adult businesses to be located at least 500 feet from an existing adult business. The concept of the 500-foot separation is to avoid creating closely packed "red light" districts that draw crowds and traffic, and reduce property values.

### Public open house to explain the proposals:

**Date:** Friday, June 13, 2007  
**Time:** 2:00 pm and repeat at 6:30 pm  
**Place:** Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

### Public Hearing on the proposals:

**Date:** Wednesday, June 18, 2008  
**Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Place:** Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Adult businesses could be allowed to locate in the adult business overlay zoning district after they submit applications for zoning permits and meet the requirements of Section 513 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. These requirements include: separation from sensitive locations and design of buildings and signs. The Saipan Zoning Law may be viewed and downloaded online at [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp) or at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan.

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will decide whether to approve the adult business overlay zoning district and whether to recommend that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation amend the Saipan Zoning Law.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, June 20, 2008. People should send written comments via email to [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. We prefer email. Anyone with questions about the proposal may call the Zoning Office at 670-234-9663.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendment to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Zoning Map (Rezoning)

We ask your comments on proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 and Official Zoning Maps. The proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law affect many parts of the law including: definitions of terms, exemptions and area of jurisdiction, the types of uses permitted in certain areas (zones), standards (requirements) for temporary uses and roadside merchandise stands, standards for certain uses, building design, signs and lighting, lot line adjustments, subdivisions, road standards, and editorial changes. The proposed amendments to the Official Zoning Map (rezoning) are on map sheets 01, 03, 09, 13, 14, 16, 26, and 29

### Public open house to explain the proposals:

**Date:** Friday, June 13, 2007  
**Time:** 2:00 pm and repeat at 6:30 pm  
**Place:** Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

### Public Hearing on the proposals:

**Date:** Wednesday, June 18, 2008  
**Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Place:** Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

The proposed amendments and map changes may be viewed at  
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan  
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library  
Zoning Board website: [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp) (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps. The Board will also decide whether to recommend any or all of the amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law for adoption by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, Thursday, June 19, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

# LibDay candidates presented

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN  
[rienne\\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com](mailto:rienne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The 2008 Liberation Day Committee presented four of its candidates vying for this year's Liberation Day Queen and Royal Court.

This year's hopefuls are made up of first-time candidates from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School.

Queen's Committee chair Tina Pangelinan, together with Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, introduced Luciann Marie M. Indalecio, 15; Kaylynn An-

gelynn L. Sablan, 16; Carley V. Laniyo, 16; and Haoting Zhang Romolor, 18, as this year's candidates.

Tudela and Pangelinan presented the girls their sashes and their share of 500 raffle booklets during the official pinning ceremony held at the Mayor's Conference Room yesterday.

This year's candidates have already secured sponsors and shared that they are ready to sell as many tickets as they possibly can.

The candidate who sells the most tickets by June 25 will be crowned as the 2008 Liberation

Day Queen.

"All the candidates are beautiful. But it's not about beauty, it's about who sells the most tickets," Tudela said.

He added that, although it would be difficult to collect money, he has confidence in the candidates and hopes that this year's event would be even more successful than last year's.

According to Pangelinan, the goal is to raise up to \$30,000 in tickets sold.

This year is the 62nd Liberation Day anniversary. This year also marks the 230th American Independence Day.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

### ROTARY GUEST

Richard Rainey, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regional director out of the San Francisco Regional Office, Region IX, and his wife are presented with a Saipan Rotary Club flag by club president Patrick Calvo, Rotarian Kim Forrester and club secretary Vicente "Ben" Babauta during the group's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's restaurant.

## Request for Rezone Proposals for Adult Business Park ZB P # 08-01

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is requesting rezoning proposals for establishment of one or more adult business park zoning districts on Saipan. The result of a successful rezoning proposal will be a proposed regulation designating a special zone for adult businesses. The result will not be a contract to provide any adult business service.

An adult business park zoning district is one or more lots and/or buildings that may be developed for the use of one or more adult businesses. According to the Saipan Zoning Law no new adult business, and, eventually, no old adult business, will be allowed except in an approved adult business district. The Law authorizes the Zoning Board to establish adult business park zoning districts in locations that meet certain requirements for road access, impact on health, safety, or welfare of adjacent land uses, and appropriate property management.

The Zoning Board will evaluate the rezoning proposals and consider which, if any, are appropriate to include in draft regulations. (See Section 514 of the Saipan Zoning Law, available on [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp), "Zoning Law", Article 5). Once the draft regulations are prepared, they will be sent out for public review and comment. The Board's action is just the first step in the creation of an adult business park. The private sector will ordinarily be responsible for the next steps – acquiring property, permits and licenses and construction and operation.

### Content of rezoning proposals

Rezoning proposals shall be submitted on the form "Rezoning proposal for an Adult Business Park Zoning District" and be accompanied by all required attachments. The form is available in PDF format on the Zoning Board website at [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp).

We will send you a copy of the form in MS Word format if you e-mail a request to [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp). Referenced materials may be downloaded from the Zoning Office website [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp).

### Format of rezoning proposals

You must submit in hard copy and electronically:

- One original and 9 copies
- On 8 1/2" x 11" or 11" x 17" paper; and
- One electronic file version in PDF, MS Word or MS PowerPoint format, by email to [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp) (use subject line: Adult Business Park) or delivered on cd or floppy disk to the Zoning Office.

### Where and when to submit rezoning proposals and questions

Address your questions, the rezoning proposal itself and other correspondence to: Attn: Adult Business Park RFP.

Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan

US Mail: Zoning Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

E-mail: [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp)

Proposals must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, Friday, June 20, 2008.

### Evaluation of rezoning proposals

The Board's principal goals for this process are:

1. Provide a clustered area where adult businesses may function.
2. Protect public health and safety.
3. Insure compatibility with nearby land uses.
4. Promote an attractive area that enhances property values.

Of course, the Zoning Board will not compensate a person for expenses incurred in the preparation or submission of the rezoning proposal; and the Board may accept or reject a rezoning proposal as it deems prudent.

Authority: PL 6 - 32 (effective June 27, 1989), the "Zoning Code of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." PL 6-32 § 1; 2 CMC § 7201 et seq. and the Saipan Zoning Law, 10 CMC § 3511, PLL 15-29, §§ 101 - 1414 and the Zoning Map. Section 514(b) of the Zoning Law empowers the Board, by regulation, to establish one or more Adult Business Park Zoning Districts.

HENRY S. HOFSCHEIDER, Chairman



## 'No room at CUC for drug users, lazy people'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has no room for people either using illegal drugs or just plain lazy, according to new CUC executive director Antonio Muna.

Muna said that CUC does a lot of things that require public service and the staff members need to be there to perform their very best.

"I think whether it is drug use or laziness or they can't get out of bed or they can't get to work on time,

I think we don't expect those folks to meet performance standards," said Muna when asked by *Saipan Tribune* on his stance about drug use that was an issue a few years ago at CUC.

Muna emphasized that he comes from a background that has zero tolerance for drug use.

"Hopefully as we start to communi-

cate, these people will realize that they need to be at their very best when they come to work in the morning," he said.

The CUC chief said that if employees are not at their very best, then "I can't help them."

Muna earlier stated that CUC personnel would see performance from him and that he expects that from all of the staff.

"Performance. That's the bottom line. We've got to perform," Muna stressed.

On the austerity Friday issue, the executive director said it is difficult to implement that at CUC because the utility agency has a "24-7 job."

"We need to do what we need to do. As that becomes necessary, I'll be the first to take that position," he added. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



Muna

## Labor encourages workers to file small claims

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Labor is encouraging alien workers who fail to collect money awarded them through administrative orders to seek legal action.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Labor's public education and outreach director, Rose Ada-Hocog, disclosed that starting early this month Labor would be putting in place a new procedure to help alien workers collect

their money.

If an employer defaults on a payment schedule pursuant to a Labor administrative order, Labor will give the worker a package for small claims court.

"If they [workers] are owed money and they come over to the hearing officer to check if there's any payment from the employer and the hearing officer does not have any payment for them, then what we would do is we would give the employee a package for small claims court," she said.

The official explained that workers are advised to file the small claims against employers in the Superior Court.

She said they also tell workers of possible lawyers who entertain such small claims complaints.

Ada-Hocog, however, stressed that Labor would still help the workers in getting their monetary awards.

She said they just want to emphasize to the workers that Labor is not a collection agency.

## Workers' coalition invites new members to register

The newly formed Coalition of United Workers (NMI) is a non-profit organization primarily organized to create a new voice for the workers in CNMI. Originally called Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI), the group decided to take out the word "Guest" to signify unity between guest and local workers. Our mission is to seek legal means to improve the lives of the workers and our families. Currently, there

are about seven Filipino organizations and Bangladeshi, Chinese, Korean and Nepalese communities affiliated with the Coalition.

The Coalition will take an active role in educating workers about federalization—what it means and how it affects especially the guest workers. In line with this, forums are currently being planned. Flyers containing important information about S.

2739/P.L. 110-229 with English, Filipino, Chinese and other translations will also be issued. There are other significant activities that the Coalition will be undertaking.

To avail of information and assistance, fill up a membership form. Membership is free of charge. You can get the forms from any of the officers or you can e-mail Irene Tantiado at irenebdi@yahoo.com. *(PR)*

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<b>Gold Medal</b> Flour <b>\$2.29</b>	<b>Anchor Hi Calcium</b> 1 Liter/Case <b>\$13.99</b>	<b>Lady Liberty Tuna</b> All Flavor/Case <b>\$36.00</b>	<b>Morton</b> Iodized Salt 26 oz. <b>59¢</b>
<b>Kool-Aid</b> 32 oz. <b>\$5.79</b>	<b>All Hersheys</b> Chocolate <b>2 for \$100</b>	<b>Doritos/Cheetos</b> and Lays <b>Buy 1 take 1</b>	<b>Beach Cliff Sardines</b> 3.75 oz. <b>99¢</b>
<b>Sapporo Ichiban</b> LIMIT 2 CASES <b>\$7.75</b>	<b>Cadbury Chocolates</b> Big Size <b>\$2.79</b>	<b>All Keebler Chips</b> <b>Buy 1 take 1</b>	<b>Sugar</b> 2 KG. <b>\$1.55</b>
<b>Enfamil with</b> Iron 8 oz./Case <b>\$36.99</b>	<b>Folgers Classic Roast</b> 39 oz. <b>\$6.99</b>	<b>Real Fresh Milk</b> (Reg. & Low Fat) LIMIT 2 CASES <b>\$16.99</b>	<b>Spoon &amp; Fork Unbranded</b> 100 cts. <b>99¢</b>

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# Economic stimulus payment FAQs

Following are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions regarding the economic stimulus payments. The *Saipan Tribune* will be publishing these FAQs as a series.

## Q. When will I receive my stimulus payment?

A. The Treasury Department began making payments on April 28. Early filers, especially those who chose direct deposit, are getting their payments first.

If the IRS finished processing your return by April 15, you will most likely get your payment based on this schedule. If

you chose direct deposit, this means your payment will arrive on May 2, May 9 or May 16. If you did not choose direct deposit, checks will be mailed between mid-May and mid-July. For this initial batch of stimulus payments, the payment date is based on the last two digits of your Social Security number. [Updated 5/8/08]

## Q. I filed my return on time, but I haven't received my stimulus payment, even though the payment date listed for my Social Security number has passed. Why?

A. In general, the payment schedule only applies if your return was received and the IRS finished processing your return before April 15. If you filed your return on time, but close to the April 15 deadline, the IRS may not have finished processing it before April 15.

Processing times for tax returns and stimulus payments vary. If you are getting a regular income-tax refund, the IRS will send you that refund first. Normally, your stimulus payment will follow one to two weeks later.

If you are not expecting a regu-

lar tax refund, your stimulus payment should arrive a minimum of six weeks after you file.

## Q. I filed after April 15 and the payment date for my Social Security number has passed. How long will it take for me to get my stimulus payment?

A. It will generally take a minimum of six weeks after you file your return to get your stimulus payment.

## Q. Will my stimulus payment be included in my regular tax refund? Will the checks or direct deposits come at the same time?

A. No and no. There will be two payments. You will receive one payment for your regular tax refund and later you will receive a separate stimulus payment.

## Q. To which address will my stimulus payment be mailed?

A. The stimulus payment will be mailed to your last known address the IRS has on file.

## Q. I have moved since filing my 2007 tax return. How will my payment reach me?

A. You should file a Form 8822 with the IRS and a change of address notice with the U.S. Postal Service. This will ensure your check is sent to your new address. Without your current address, the check could be returned to the IRS as undeliverable.

Source: Internal Revenue Service ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov))



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Joaquin A. Aldan, center, of San Vicente, Saipan, received his certification from the Hawaii Maritime License Center after successfully completing the Master/Mate 100 Tons & Assistance Towing Program on May 9, 2008. In attendance were Angel A. Demapan, left, and Eric T. Kani, right.

# Europe Highlights

## Tour 2008

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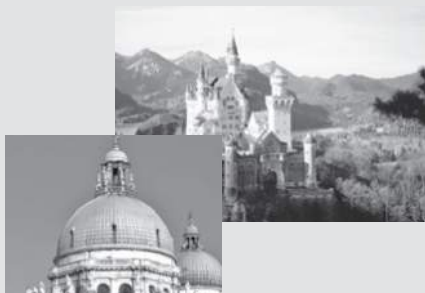
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# Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 14, 1999

## Fair wage act pushed back

The implementation of the Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act may be delayed further after the Attorney General's Office pushed back the adoption of the rules and regulations that would put into motion Public Law 11-74. "The regulations currently promulgated will not be adopted without significant modifications, therefore, these will be repromulgated," said Nancy Gottfried, assistant attorney general.

## BOE backs moves to mandate kindergarten

The Board of Education will lend support to a legislative initiative that would seek to amend the CNMI Constitution to make the free education available even to five-year-old children in order to ensure the continuity of the kindergarten program. In yesterday's meeting, board members gave their nod to a proposal supporting a legislation that is being prepared by Rep. Malua Peters to amend the Constitution.

## Hosting illegal aliens puts pressure on local coffers

The increasing cost of providing temporary shelter to some 500 illegal Chinese immigrants on Tinian continues to drain local resources as their fate remains uncertain nearly a month after the first boatload arrived on the island. Likewise, a scheduled repatriation of the first batch of undocumented aliens has been called off at the last minute on the heels of heightening tension between the United States and China as a result of the air strike in Yugoslavia.

MAY 14, 2001

## Better child care at CHC

Problems associated with the persistent increase in the number of critically-ill children in the Northern Marianas will decline once the Department of Public Health sets up its own state-of-the-art Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The proposed setting up of PICU earned the support of health officials amid problems on the increasing number of pediatric patients who were forced to be sent off-island despite their inability to travel.

## DOF assures on-time release of tax rebates

The government has enough funds to be disbursed when the initial batch of tax rebates and refunds are mailed out, Finance Secretary Lucy Dlg. Nielsen disclosed Friday. Ms. Nielsen is confident that rebates will be released in the next several weeks as the Revenue and Taxation Division completes its review of income tax returns filed by taxpayers.

## CUC mobilizes teachers to ease water shortage

With Saipan's water woes expected to last until early August, the Commonwealth Utilities Commission is recruiting the island's educators to help alleviate the crisis. Last week, the utility's Project WET (Water for Education for Teachers) went into full gear as it visited Tanapag Elementary School where faculty was in eager anticipation of that morning's lessons on the valuable resource.

MAY 14, 2002

## Cing resigns from Senate leadership

Enraged over what he perceived as an insult to him and his committee, Senate Vice President David M. Cing expressed his intention yesterday to resign from the upper chamber's leadership, saying, "Can I trust my leadership [again] after what happened?" This comes soon after Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano made a motion to recall and reconsider an earlier vote they made rejecting the nomination of former senator Edward U. Maratita to the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority.

## Senate rejects Maratita for CDA

In an unprecedented move, the Senate twice rejected yesterday the nomination of former senator Edward U. Maratita to sit on the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority. The rejections stem primarily from an existing loan that Maratita had taken out from the CDA. Due to confidentiality requirements, the loan amount was not made public during the session.



# Board starts the process to zone adult businesses

The Commonwealth Zoning Board has started the process to zone adult businesses on Saipan. The decision was arrived at during the board's meeting on May 8.

The board is now circulating two items for public comment. One is a proposal to create an adult business overlay zoning district. The other is to request proposals for adult business park zoning districts.

"This is a major step forward," said board chairman Henry Hofschneider. "We are working to make the island more family-friendly."

The adult business overlay zoning district would cover land within 200 feet of each side of the centerline of Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) as follows: from Chalan Msgr. Guerrero north to a line extending along the center of Commonwealth Avenue (south side of Sugar King Park). If a lot or building extends beyond 200 feet from the centerline, only the part within 200 feet would be allowed to be used for an adult business.

The board is also seeking public comment on a proposal to amend the requirements on the Saipan Zoning Law for siting adult businesses in adult business overlay zones. The proposed amendment would require new adult businesses in an overlay zone to be located at least 500 feet from an existing adult business. The concept of the 500-foot separation is to avoid creating closely packed "red light" districts that draw crowds and traffic, and reduce property values.

Adult businesses are defined in the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 and include most massage parlors, porno shops and strip clubs. Adult businesses could be allowed to locate in the adult business overlay zoning district after they submit applications for zoning permits and meet the requirements of Section 513 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. These requirements include: separation from sensitive locations and design of buildings and signs. The Saipan Zoning Law may be viewed and downloaded online at [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp) or at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan.

Informational sessions on the adult business overlay zoning district proposal will be held on June 13 at 2pm and 6:30pm to explain the proposal. A public hearing will be held on June 18 at 6:30pm. All will be held at the Multi-Purpose in Susupe.

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will decide

whether to approve the adult business overlay zoning district and whether to recommend that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation amend the Saipan Zoning Law.

The board is also requesting proposals for establishment of one or more adult business park zoning districts on Saipan. An adult business park zoning district is a piece of property composed of one or more lots and/or buildings, that may be developed with one or more adult businesses.

According to the Saipan Zoning Law, no new adult business, and, eventually, no old adult business, will be allowed except in an approved adult business district. The law authorizes the Zoning Board to establish adult business park zoning districts in locations that meet certain requirements for road access; impact on health, safety, or welfare of adjacent land uses; and property management.

The Zoning Board will evaluate the proposals for adult business parks and consider which, if any, are appropriate to include in draft regulations. Once the draft regulations are prepared, they will be sent out for public review and comment. Information on the request for proposals is available on the zoning website ([www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp)) and at the Zoning Office on the second floor of the Joeten Building in DanDan. **(Zoning Board)**

GREGORY F. CAMACHO  
ANTONETTE S. CAMACHO  
P.O. BOX 500631  
SAIPAN, MP 96950  
Tel No. 670 483-7164

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the ) FCD GU  
Petition for ) CIVIL  
Appointment of ) ACTION  
Guardianship for: ) NO. 08-0246

AUDREY MARIE )  
SABLAN CAMACHO, ) NOTICE  
Minor Child, ) OF  
HEARING

By: GREGORY F. )  
CAMACHO and )  
ANTONETTE S. )  
CAMACHO, )  
Petitioners. )

Notice is hereby given that on 2nd day of June, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, the petitioners GREGORY F. CAMACHO and ANTONETTE S. CAMACHO are petitioning the court to appoint LAWRENCE F. CAMACHO and GINA D. CAMACHO as general guardians of AUDREY MARIE SABLAN CAMACHO, minor child.

Dated this 8th day of May, 2008.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan,  
Clerk of Court



## MMAC'S TITLE SPONSOR

Joeten Charitable delivered its \$3,000 sponsorship check toward the Marianas March Against Cancer yesterday. The MMAC will be held this Friday, at the Hopwood track and field from 6pm to 6am. From left, Clarence Tenorio, president of Joeten Charitable Foundation; David B. Rosario, MMAC 2008 chairman; Joaquin Sablan, MMAC 2008 vice chairman; and Kim Coats, Commonwealth Cancer Association treasurer. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Putting a price on carbon

**T**he dismal April car sales data out of Detroit illustrated an important lesson about what it will take to reduce U.S. consumption of foreign oil and to cut greenhouse gas emissions. With the reality sinking in that high gas prices (already more than \$4 per gallon in some places) are here to stay, American car buyers ended their nearly two-decade love affair with the sport-utility vehicle and other gas guzzlers. Overall sales at the Big Three automakers were way down compared with figures from April 2007—and the drop was driven by plummeting sales of light trucks and SUVs. Chrysler's Jeep Commander SUV dropped 49 percent. General Motors' Chevrolet Tahoe fell 35 percent. And Ford's F-series pickup trucks declined 27 percent.

Meanwhile, fuel-efficient cars were rolling off the lots. The Big Three automakers saw increased sales in cars with high gas mileage, as did Toyota, which had an overall sales gain of 12 percent over April 2007. The Toyota Prius notched a 54 percent increase.

Had Congress the courage to impose a price on carbon, these positive changes could have been achieved years ago—and without the side effect of pouring fresh money into the government coffers of Iran, Venezuela and Russia. Instead, the financial squeeze at the pump brought on by global increases in oil prices finally brought about the change in behavior in the driving public that could not be achieved by appealing to citizens' better natures. The next attitude adjustment should come in Detroit, where the free fall of bottom lines ought to prompt a decisive shift away from the production of SUVs and other gas guzzlers.

With a carbon tax, the price of gas might be even higher than it is now. But as we have seen, high prices encourage less driving and a demand for more efficient vehicles and energy alternatives, which result in reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. More important, the billions generated by a carbon tax could help fund projects that would reduce U.S. dependence on petroleum imports from unfriendly or unstable countries. Yes, we know: A carbon tax is a non-starter on tax-averse Capitol Hill. But with debate on a cap-and-trade bill from Sens. Joseph I. Lieberman, I-Conn., and John W. Warner, R-Va., starting next month, some price on carbon may be coming. Finally.

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MEANWHILE,  
SOMEWHERE  
IN  
PURGATORY...SWEET  
SALVATION!BUSH POLL  
NUMBERS:  
NIXON NO  
LONGER  
LEAST  
POPULAR  
PRESIDENTKIRK  
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## 101 business ideas for the Saipanpreneur

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

**S**o here we are at a point of transition here in the CNMI. While things may look dismal to some, there are pockets and pools of opportunity just waiting to be developed. Tips for spotting opportunity include looking to the laws recognizing the trends, following the leaders, listening to the talk, watching the prices and consulting your own intuitive, passion-centered crystal ball. The following are some random Saipan-specific, Tinian-targeted and Rota-rooted business ideas to get you thinking.

### 1. IDEA: Driver Education Training School

**LAW:** The recent announcement of a Department of Public Safety (DPS) driver education requirement.

Wherever there is a new law, there is always a new business that can be launched around it. The new driver education requirement means that there is an opportunity for enterprising entrepreneurs to start their own Driver Training Schools. Do you speak Mandarin? Korean? Japanese? Those nationals need training too? Contact DPS for the rules, regulations and requirements for setting up a Driver Training School.

### 2. IDEA: A Worm Farm

**LEADER:** Another good tip for spotting opportunity is to look at already thriving businesses and provide ancillary products or services. It was serial entrepreneur Tony Pellegrino who offered me this one. Tony is the founder of Saipan Aquaculture, hatching, growing and exporting shrimp.

"What do shrimp eat?" he asked me, rhetorically. "Worms," was his reply. A business idea might be to raise and sell worms (an industry known as vermiculture) not only to locally-based shrimp farms, but to other islands as well. It may not sound glamorous, but most millionaire fortunes are made doing the unglamorous jobs others shy away from.

### 3. IDEA: New uses for old factories

**TREND:** The garment factories are closing.

What does this mean for the foreign nationals on island? What does this mean for the actual buildings which housed the factories? Perhaps you can find some new uses for old factories. Warehouses, entertainment facilities, flea markets, and other ideas may work well.

### 4. IDEA: Sell fuel-efficient vehicles; Vehicle retrofitting; gas tank additives.

**TREND:** Gasoline prices are rising.

What change in consumer habits might this effect? Will people be driving less? Can you offer a way to get better gas mileage from existing vehicles? (do a search on "acetone") Will people be driving scooters and bicycles more? Is there a sustainable market for a bus-

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com).



service on island?

### 5. IDEA: Culture-specific goods and services

**TALK:** If you listen to the talk around the island, you'll hear more Korean and Russian being spoken as tourists, business owners and new residents arrive.

What opportunities can this offer? Perhaps you can offer cultural sensitivity classes or programs for new arrivals about to live and work in the CNMI. Perhaps there are culturally-based products and services that new residents are looking for that you might offer. Are you the newest "Translator/Proofreader/Sign Maker/International Marketing Expert" on island?

### 6. IDEA: Grant Writing

**TREND:** There's always a need for funding for both non-profit and profit-based businesses.

Whether it's government grants for renewable energy products, business subsidies for indigenous peoples, philanthropic donations for conservation efforts, there are sources of funding for which a good grant writer is always needed. You can offer your services as a "Proposal Consultant" specializing in government contracts or grants.

### 7. IDEA: Export locally made, sustainable goods

**TREND:** The Greening of America and the world.

As industrialized nations awaken to the effects of global warming, there is increasing interest in promoting, producing and purchasing environmentally friendly, sustainably-produced products. A line of "produced in paradise" products which offer the world the opportunity to support local businesses while decreasing its carbon footprint might be a good idea. (A carbon footprint is a "measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide".)

Ideas include handmade soap, jewelry, bags, wood/paper/recyclable crafts, decorations, clothing and even food! Check out [www.saipancrafts.com](http://www.saipancrafts.com) for ideas and a place to sell your crafts.

### 8. IDEA: Virtual Assistant; Business Support Services

**TREND:** Companies are downsizing.

Even though we are "part" of the U.S., we here on Saipan still represent lower-cost, offshore labor and skills that can be farmed out to overseas businesses. Whether it's a fully staffed call center or an individual who, with laptop and software, offer virtual assistant

See 101 on next page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# In Burma, a UN promise not kept

By FRED HIATT

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When a parent abuses or neglects a child, government steps in to offer protection. But who steps in when government abuses or neglects its people?

Nearly three years ago, the United Nations announced an answer to that question: It would. At a summit celebrating the organization's 60th birthday, 171 nations agreed that they would intervene, forcefully if necessary, if a state failed to protect its own people. The action was seen as both a sign of remorse for the failure to stop genocide in Rwanda and a rebuke to the United States and its unilateral ways.

"I'm delighted that the responsibility to protect, a Canadian idea, now belongs to the world," said Canada's prime minister at the time, Paul Martin. "The United Nations will not find itself turning away or averting its gaze."

Since then the United Nations has averted its gaze as Sudan's government continues to ravage the people of Darfur. It has turned away as Zimbabwe's rulers terrorize their own people. Now it is bowing to Burma's sovereignty as that nation's junta allows more than a million victims of Cyclone Nargis to face starvation, dehydration, cholera and other miseries rather than allow outsiders to offer aid on the scale that's needed.

In light of America's troubles in Iraq, the pendulum in the United States has swung toward multilateral solutions and international law. All three candidates to replace President Bush have promised to restore alliances and put more faith in allies.

But the stalemate in Burma, also known as Myanmar, shows how difficult it is to translate "responsibility to protect" into action. It's hard to imagine a government more deserving of losing the national equivalent of its parental rights; yet it seems more likely that hundreds of thousands of people will die needlessly than that the United Nations will act.

Dr. Chris Beyrer, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, has spent years in and around Burma, fighting the intransigence of the regime to help the Burmese people. What he has learned, as he said last week, is that "the regime does not have the interest of the people as its fundamental concern." Almost all its actions before the storm and since can be understood in this light: The junta cares about its own survival, not the survival of its people.

So even before the devastating storm swept in around midnight May 2, the Burmese were vulnerable. One-third of children under 5 were undernourished. With 3 percent of government spending going to public health, compared with 40 percent to the military, there was a dearth of doctors and clinics. In many areas malaria and tuberculosis posed severe threats.

The government failed to warn people of the approaching storm and has failed to help them since. It apparently does not want to risk whatever benefit might redound to Western countries for deploying the "soft power" of assistance. Saturday it deployed its army northward, to beat and browbeat people to vote yes in a phony referendum intended to make military rule permanent, rather than southward, where 1.5 million people were homeless and 65 percent of territory was under water.

Yet when France reminded the United Nations of its "responsibility to protect," China, Russia and their ever-reliable voting partner, Thabo Mbeki's South Africa, slammed the door. So tons of aid float just offshore as Burma's generals sleep comfortably in their remote jungle capital and China's rulers can proudly, once again, take credit for defending the principle of national sovereignty.

Meanwhile, the Burmese people themselves do not give up. Small teams of aid workers from persecuted dissident groups are making their way south, offering what little assistance they can, though soldiers at times confiscate their goods. And in the delta, one Burmese managed to inform a friend outside, "many people keep looking up to the sky — literally." A week and a half after the cyclone, they are waiting for helicopters, which for many will appear too late or not at all.

Hiatt is The Washington Post's editorial page editor.

## Letters to the Editor

### Pew, why won't you talk about the monument?

I am truly embarrassed for the Pew monument proponents. In a desperate act to keep their project alive, they have stooped to a new low by mounting a smear campaign against everyone who just happens to disagree with their view of resource management, the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. They proclaim that their preservationist approach to resource management is the only way to save the world.

I am astonished at the number of recent self-proclaimed fishery biologists and experts in fishery management issues within the pro-monument camp. All this gloom and doom anti-fishing discussion smells suspiciously like Pew involvement and it stinks. For those who wish to learn more about Pew and their fanatical anti-fishing agenda, may I suggest a computer search for "pew anti fishing" and read some of the articles. But this is not the real issue at hand, is it?

Sugar Dock, Wespac, NMFS, Ms. Simonds, and Mr. Gourley are all irrelevant topics and are simply diversions created by Pew to take the focus away from the real issue before the people of the CNMI—designation of a National Monument (a "no-take" Marine Protected Area) that would

encompass over one-third of the CNMI's Exclusive Economic Zone before President Bush leaves office.

Pew is trying to draw attention away from the fact that they still don't have any significant justification for the designation of a National Monument in the CNMI. Here it is over one year after the project was first introduced and it's still smoke and mirrors, glossy photos, and unsubstantiated promises of fame and fortune that the federal government (or private sector ventures) will give the CNMI sometime in the future. In return, the people of the CNMI will permanently give up any future responsible extractive resource potential within 115,000 square miles of our EEZ. Why would anyone with this much to lose agree to this scenario?

Why can't Pew discuss the real issues being asked by community members instead of personally attacking those who have a different opinion? With this blatant display of disrespect, it's no wonder that Pew is being ignored. It appears to me that Pew doesn't care who they step on to get what they want—the end justifies the means, eh?

**John Gourley**  
*Navy Hill, Saipan*

### Congratulations!

This is an open letter to congratulate Ms. Edel Mendiola for winning the Student of the Month award at Kagman Elementary School. Edel, you really made my day when you called and advised me that you are spending your day at PIC. Congratulations and keep up the good work. We're proud of you!

**Joaquin Taitano**  
*Brooklyn, New York*

### Garnishment of economic stimulus checks

Should the CNMI government garnish the checks that Uncle Sam will provide us with? Why not? If you owe the CNMI government, they should have the right to collect from you. Their inability to collect is part of why we are experiencing bitter times. That and especially, this administration. Imagine if they can collect on all the millions of dollars lost from corruption. Guam has decided to garnish from people who owe GovGuam. CUC should garnish the stimulus checks from those who owe them so that they can have money to fix the

outdated generators and continue to pay their managers unreasonably high salaries. Don't forget the consultants they always run to. CUC has a huge amount of accounts receivables and that is part of why they aren't functioning. Privatize CUC, abolish municipal councils, reduce the size of the Legislature, and lower the salaries of judges and government executive directors so that we can have a better quality of life for all.

**Jeff Flores**  
*Kobler, Saipan*

### Thank you and congratulation

It was a welcome sight to see the leaders of Dekada and the coalition and other groups coming together again during the candle light vigil last Saturday, May 10, 2008. There is now a glimpse of hope that true unity among our leaders can still be achieved after all. I do not know who invited who but that is no longer important. What is important is that you are there again for us—together. The greatness in you is now unfolding as you move forward together for our common

good. We should all learn from the lessons of the past.

In closing, let me quote Loretta Girzartis who said, "If someone listens, or stretches out a hand, or whispers a word of encouragement, or attempts to understand a lonely person, extraordinary things begin to happen."

Once more, thank you to all of you—our leaders.

**Mario N. Corpus**  
*Garapan, Saipan*

## 101

From Page 10

services to small and medium-sized businesses, the opportunity is there, thanks to the internet, to generate your income from clients overseas.

### 9. IDEA: Rent & Repair

TREND: Prices are rising.

If people don't have enough money to buy it, might they be willing to rent it? If they can't rent it, can they repair it? Cars and scooters aren't the only products this can apply to. The high cost of living might just open up opportunities to rent and repair a host of items.

### 10. IDEA: Re-Box Services

This one is a wild and crazy idea born from my own experience. If you've ordered products online from here on Saipan, you may discover that many

companies don't, won't, or don't know how to ship here to Saipan, Tinian and Rota (and other "exotic" locations) reliably. (*i.e. The size of their operations means they can't guarantee the item will be sent Priority, and they don't have the manpower to reliably attach the customs forms*)

I've been thinking that a needed service would be to have a U.S. mainland location to provide re-shipping services to people here on these islands, and other unique destinations that big companies don't always ship to. That way, I could order something from a company, have it shipped to your location in the states, and then you send to me. Many people are already doing this using family and friends as their re-boxes, but there might be an increasing number of people whose friends and family just aren't reliable either. What do you think?

**BONUS IDEA tip:** Once you determine the particular area and expertise that interests you, then expand the possible business ideas by applying your particular purpose to it. On my website (www.passionprofit.com) is a personality test which helps you determine if your purpose in life is as a "creator," "savior," "guru," or "guide." What this will help you determine, for example, is how best to maximize any given business idea. Say, you determine you have an interest in local crafts. If you are a "creator," you may be happiest simply making the thing. If you are a "savior," you might offer some sort of healing therapy in the form of arts and crafts. If you are a "guru," then your business might be as a crafts instructor, teaching people the fine art of craft making and selling. If you are a guide, you may find yourself collecting and offering museum displays as a way of

preserving, promoting and advancing the culture.

Whether or not all these ideas are immediately viable for you in particular or here on Saipan, Tinian and Rota needs to be investigated and determined. However, they might offer a starting point for the savvy, opportunity-seeking entrepreneur to begin asking the right questions. Stay tuned for more in the 101 Business Ideas series!

### Calling All Crafts

Inspired by last week's passionpreneur profile, and in an effort to provide sources of income to local artisans, if you have or know of someone with unique handicrafts to sell on the SaipanCrafts.com site, contact me at walt@passionprofit.com. Details for sellers are provided on the site.

**Note:** For more tips on acting on your

ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com)!

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!






Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com). Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit [www.saipanpreneur.com](http://www.saipanpreneur.com) and [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com)



Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼73
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89 ▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼73

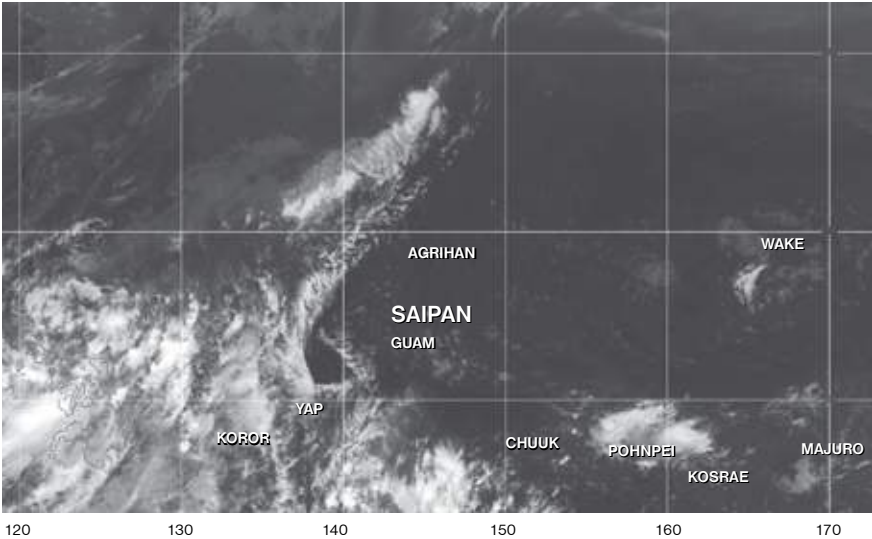
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲61 ▼50
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼60
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲82 ▼72
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲81 ▼68
London	Cloudy	▲68 ▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83 ▼59
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲68 ▼55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼73
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼54
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲67 ▼51
Paris	Showers	▲77 ▼58
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲68 ▼50
Rome	Showers	▲68 ▼56
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼50
San Francisco	Sunny	▲77 ▼56
Seoul	Cloudy	▲65 ▼49
Tokyo	Showers	▲69 ▼58
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲78 ▼56

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:52AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:21AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
3:40PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:47PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2008  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extending southwestward from 25N144E becomes a trough at 21N137E and continues beyond 20N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 200 miles behind the cold front and scattered showers are found within 350 miles behind the trough. These features are located at the northwest corner of the discussion area. Convergent low-level winds and upper-level divergence are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over a broad area between the equator and 17N from 130E to 139E. This area includes Palau and Yap. Trade wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 1N and 7N from 139E to 148E. This area is southwest of Chuuk. Trade wind convergence coupled with divergence aloft are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 6N and 10N from 155E to 162E. Pohnpei is near the southern edge of this area. A weak trough running from 10N170E to 1N168E is coupled with upper-level divergence. This trough is producing scattered showers between 5N and 7N from 168E to 179E. This area includes Majuro. Scattered trade-wind showers are occurring within 100 miles of a line from 20N163E to 18N166E to 16N165E. This area is west of Wake Island.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49AM	6:38PM
Thursday	5:48AM	6:39PM
Friday	5:48AM	6:39PM
Saturday	5:48AM	6:39PM
Sunday	5:48AM	6:39PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:56PM	1:44AM
Thursday	2:45PM	2:20AM
Friday	3:32PM	2:54AM
Saturday	4:20PM	3:29AM
Sunday	5:09PM	4:06AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b> CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	<b>Manila-Saipan</b> CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



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- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Stocks up as oil price drop eases inflation fears

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Wall Street rallied Monday as oil prices fell back and alleviated some of investors' concerns about accelerating inflation. The Dow Jones industrials gained 130 points.

Oil's retreat helped soothe some of Wall Street's worries about inflation's impact on consumer spending. Crude briefly reached a new trading high of \$126.40, but investors seemed shy, for the time being at least, to add to oil's huge gain of nearly \$10 last week. Light, sweet crude oil fell \$1.73 to settle at \$124.23 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"This market does seem to be reacting positively to any sort of easing we see in the energy patch," said Craig Peckham, market strategist at Jefferies & Co.

Investors also got some encouraging news about the credit crisis from London-based HSBC Holdings PLC, which said its first-quarter profits were up from a year ago although the global banking company took a \$3.2 billion write-down on subprime mortgage assets in the United States. The company did echo other assessments that the U.S. was likely to fall into recession this year.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. CEO Jamie Dimon said at a conference Monday he estimates the credit market crisis is 75 percent over, but that the recession is just beginning.

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P42.745

# Oil falls after new record above \$126

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Oil prices briefly spiked to a new record above \$126 a barrel Monday but ended the day lower as investors cashed in profits and an earthquake in China raised the possibility of a drop in demand.

Retail gas prices, meanwhile, rose to another record above \$3.70 a gallon, again following crude's recent path higher.

Oil futures have set new records for six straight sessions, and analysts said the market was due for a correction following the seemingly relentless climb upward.

"It looks like we're seeing a little bit of a correction. We put in the highs last week so we're seeing some profit-taking," said Tom Bentz, analyst at BNP

Paribas Commodity Futures in New York.

Light, sweet crude for June delivery jumped to a new all-time trading record of \$126.40 a barrel in light trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange before falling back to settle at \$124.23, down \$1.73 from Friday's closing record of \$125.96. It was the first

time oil has closed lower in six sessions.

Monday's price fluctuation underscored the uncertainty over oil's future direction. Many analysts believe the weak dollar has driven oil prices to levels that defy fundamental supply and demand economics. But other investors see continued strong demand for oil and fuel from

China and India as a sign that oil prices have further room to rise.

Moreover, growing concerns about declining crude production in Mexico, Russia and elsewhere are keeping prices in record territory, analysts say. Goldman Sachs said in a report last week that crude prices could rise to \$150 to \$200 within two years.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### HP in talks to buy EDS in deal reportedly worth \$12B to \$13B

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Hewlett-Packard Co. is negotiating to buy information technology services provider Electronic Data Systems Corp. in a deal that could help the world's largest personal computer maker win more consulting contracts with large companies and government agencies. Palo Alto-based HP and Plano, Texas-based EDS confirmed the talks Monday shortly after The Wall Street Journal reported a deal could be reached as early as Tuesday. Citing unnamed people familiar with the matter, the Journal said HP will pay \$12 billion to \$13 billion—a price that translates to \$24 to \$26 per share.

### Tribune's Newsday deal is one step in easing debt

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Tribune Co.'s \$650 million sale of Newsday is an important step toward alleviating its debt burden—for this year. Now the Chicago company needs to move on its next big asset sales, including the Chicago Cubs baseball team and Wrigley Field, in order to meet its obligations to creditors looming in 2009. The deal announced Monday puts one of Tribune's largest newspapers in the hands of cable operator Cablevision Systems Corp., which like Newsday is based on New York's Long Island.

### Mortgage cos. reveal damage from housing crisis

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Broad damage in the mortgage industry was in full view Monday as a number of companies posted dismal first-quarter earnings, but there were also some hope that the worst of the housing crisis is over. Investors bid up shares of mortgage lenders and insurers despite billions in losses from a sustained housing downturn in the U.S. Shares of bond insurer MBIA Inc., and mortgage insurers PMI Group Inc. and Radian Group Inc., all rose Monday, though shares of lender IndyMac Bancorp Inc. tumbled nearly 11 percent after warning of a rough year ahead. The Pasadena, Calif.-based lender lost \$184.2 million, or \$2.27 per share, during the first quarter.

## Old gas pumps can't handle ever-rising prices

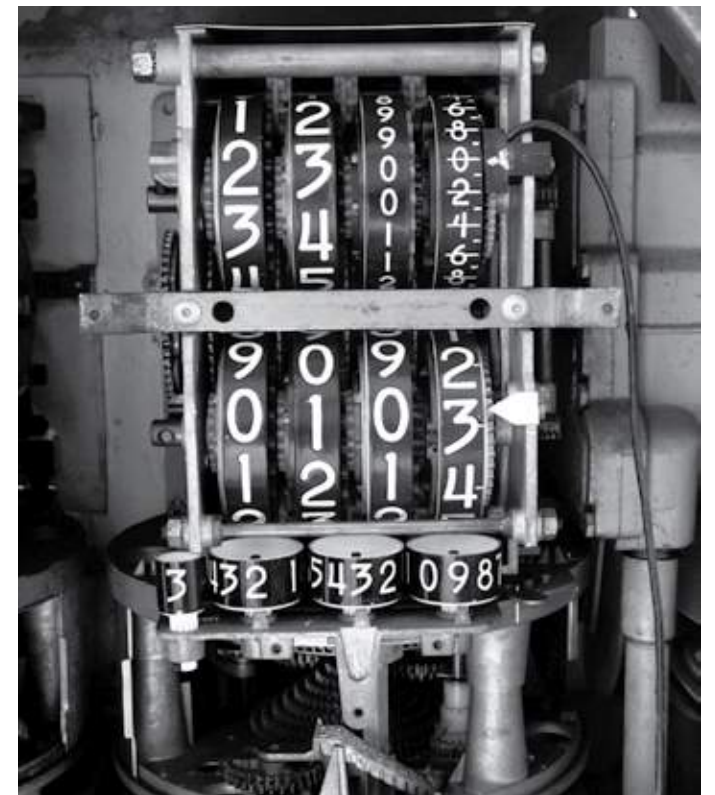
**REARDAN, Wash. (AP)**—Mom-and-pop service stations are running into a problem as gasoline marches toward \$4 a gallon: Thousands of old-fashioned pumps can't register more than \$3.99 on their spinning mechanical dials.

The pumps, throwbacks to a bygone era on the American road, are difficult and expensive to upgrade, and replacing them is often out of the question for station owners who are still just scraping by.

Many of the same pumps can only count up to \$99.99 for the total sale, preventing owners of some SUVs, vans, trucks and tractor-trailers to fill their tanks all the way.

As many as 8,500 of the nation's 170,000 service stations have old-style meters that need to be fixed—about 17,000 individual pumps, said Bob Renkes, executive vice president of the Petroleum Equipment Institute of Tulsa, Okla.

At Chip Colville's Chevron station in this eastern Washington town, where men in the family have pumped gas since 1919, three stubby, gray pumps were installed when gas was less than \$1 a gallon. They top out at \$3.999, only 30 cents above the price of regular gas



The mechanical meter on a diesel fuel dispenser at Colville's Inc. Chevron service station is seen Friday, April 25, 2008, in Reardan, Wash. The meters on the 30 plus-year-old dispensers stop at \$3.999 per gallon.

at Colville's station.

"In small towns, where you don't have the volume, there's no way you can afford to pay for the replacements for these old pumps," Colville said. "It's just not economically feasible."

The problem is worse in extremely rural areas, where "this might be the only pump in town that people can access," said Mike Rud, director of the North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association.

## SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/3 SAT	5/1 THU	4/21 MON	5/8 THU	4/22 TUE	4/26 SAT	5/9 FRI	5/5 MON	5/4 SUN	4/29 TUE	4/20 SUN	5/5 MON	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/10 SAT	5/8 THU	4/28 MON	5/15 THU	4/29 TUE	5/3 SAT	5/16 FRI	5/12 MON	5/11 SUN	5/6 TUE	4/27 SUN	5/12 MON	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/17 SAT	5/15 THU	5/5 MON	5/22 THU	5/6 TUE	5/10 SAT	5/23 FRI	5/19 MON	5/18 SUN	5/13 TUE	5/4 SUN	5/19 MON	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	017E	5/24 SAT	5/22 THU	5/12 MON	5/29 THU	5/13 TUE	5/17 SAT	5/30 FRI	5/26 MON	5/25 SUN	5/20 TUE	5/11 SUN	5/26 MON	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT
MELL SENOKO	005E	5/31 SAT	5/29 THU	5/19 MON	6/5 THU	5/20 TUE	5/24 SAT	6/6 FRI	6/2 MON	6/1 SUN	5/27 TUE	5/18 SUN	6/2 MON	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/7 SAT	6/5 THU	5/26 MON	6/12 THU	5/27 TUE	5/31 SAT	6/13 FRI	6/9 MON	6/8 SUN	6/3 TUE	5/25 SUN	6/9 MON	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT
Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/17 SAT	SKIP	5/21 WED	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/3 TUE	6/1 SUN	6/4 WED
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/28 WED	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/10 TUE	6/8 SUN	6/11 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	5/31 SAT	SKIP	6/4 WED	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/17 TUE	6/15 SUN	6/18 WED
STADT HAMBURG	017E	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/11 WED	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/24 TUE	6/22 SUN	6/25 WED
MELL SENOKO	005E	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/14 SAT	SKIP	6/18 WED	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/1 TUE	6/29 SUN	7/2 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/25 WED	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/8 TUE	7/6 SUN	7/9 WED

NOTE: MELL SENOKO 003E REQUIRES THE PROPELLER CONTROL SYSTEM OIL DISTRIBUTION RINGS TO BE REPLACED WITH A NEW PARTS AT HONGKONG. THEN PROCEED DIRECTLY TO GENSAN FROM KAOSHIUNG SKIPS GUAM/SAIPAN/YAP/KOROR.

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# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Toll underscore risk of cars as tornado shelters

**SENECA, Mo. (AP)**—More than a third of the 22 people killed by a tornado that smashed parts of Oklahoma and Missouri over the weekend died in cars, troubling experts who say vehicles are one of the worst places to be during a twister. Among those killed were three people in Oklahoma who were rushing to reach a relative's house in their car; a woman whose car was blown off a road near Seneca; and four family members who were in a van on the way to a friend's wedding. About 100 people have died in U.S. twisters so far this year, the worst toll in a decade, according to the National Weather Service, and the danger has not passed yet.

### Superdelegates put Obama within mathematical reach

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Barack Obama's wave of superdelegate endorsements puts him within reach of the Democratic presidential nomination by the end of the primary season on June 3—even if he loses half of the remaining six contests. The Illinois senator has picked up 26 superdelegates in the past week. At that pace, he will reach the number of delegates needed to clinch the nomination—2,025—in the next three weeks, when delegates from the remaining primaries are included. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's best chance to slow Obama is to move the goal posts. She will get that chance May 31 when the Democratic National Committee's rules panel considers proposals to seat the delegates that had been stripped from Florida and Michigan. Those two states violated

national party rules by holding their primaries in January and lost their delegates.

### No bail for N.J. man in Thailand child porn case

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)**—A small-time New Jersey actor accused of traveling to Thailand to have sex with underage boys was denied bail on Monday. U.S. District Court Judge Michael A. Schipp ordered Wayne Nelson Corliss of Union City to remain in jail, saying that he was a flight risk and a danger to the community. Corliss, 58, was arrested Thursday at his Union City home after an international manhunt. Interpol released photos of him last week and asked for the public's help in identifying him. Corliss is charged with producing child pornography.

### Genetically modified human embryo stirs criticism

**NEW YORK (AP)**—News that scientists have for the first time genetically altered a human embryo is drawing fire from some watchdog groups that say it's a step toward creating "designer babies." But an author of the study says the work was focused on stem cells. He notes that the researchers used an abnormal embryo that could never have developed into a baby anyway. "None of us wants to make designer babies," said Dr. Zev Rosenwaks, director of the Center for Reproductive Medicine and Infertility at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. The idea of designer babies is that someday, scientists may insert particular genes into embryos to produce babies with desired traits like intelligence or athletic ability.

## Wildfires force evacuations in central Florida



Ryan Baker, of Palm Bay, tries to cover his mouth as he uses a hose to extinguish spot fires behind his home in Palm Bay, Fla., on Monday, May 12, 2008.

**DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)**—Dry, windy weather fueled several wildfires on Florida's central Atlantic coast Monday, destroying at least three homes and driving hundreds of residents away as the governor declared a state of emergency.

The largest fire, a 3,000-acre blaze in Brevard County, destroyed at least two homes, including the house Butch Vanfleet built in 1980 and tried in vain to protect with a garden hose.

Vanfleet, 59, said the fire had reached the doorstep of the house in Malabar when he and his family fled Sunday evening.

All that stood Monday was the chimney and a stone wall.

Vanfleet said he will rebuild. "It's devastation," he said. "All you see is nothing but ash in between the palm trees and the palmetto. There's no grass. The fire just came so quickly, we barely got out of there."

The Florida Highway Patrol shut down a 7-mile stretch of Interstate 95 in Brevard County around rush hour Monday. U.S. Highway 1 also was closed in that area, and it was not known when it will reopen, FHP spokeswoman Kim Miller said.

"The fires have picked up in Malabar so it's just heavy, thick

black smoke and it's right at driver level," Miller said.

One person may be responsible for the blaze, said Ernie Dieble, an arson investigator with the Palm Bay Police Department. An eyewitness saw someone in a car drop something into an open field, and the fire started shortly afterward, he said.

In another fire in nearby Palm Bay, one home was destroyed and students at two schools were released early as a precaution.

To the north in Daytona Beach, about 800 acres had burned by Monday afternoon, said Division of Forestry spokesman Timber Weller.

## Mid-Atlantic storm cuts power, prompts evacuations

**LITTLE CREEK, Del. (AP)**—A wet, gusty storm that lashed the mid-Atlantic states Monday forced evacuations, flooded roads, fanned the flames of a deadly New Jersey fire and wrecked a brand-new research vessel off the Delaware coast, killing a crew member.

Tens of thousands of electricity customers in several states lost power as up to 5 inches of rain fell Sunday and Monday and wind gusts in some places reached hurricane strength.

A Coast Guard helicopter rescued the two crew members of the Russell W. Peterson research ship about 14 miles off Rehoboth Beach, but one crewman had no

heartbeat and wasn't breathing, Petty Officer Nick Cangemi said.

The crewman was declared dead at a Salisbury, Md., hospital; the condition of the second crew member was not immediately available.

The ship, named after a former Delaware governor, was christened in Wilmington just six weeks ago and was being used for the study migratory bird routes by a company trying to win state approval for an offshore wind farm. It is owned by Aqua Survey Inc. of Flemington, N.J., which had no immediate comment.

Monday morning's high tide sent waves crashing through

low-lying areas, forcing the evacuation of more than 200 residents from coastal communities in central Delaware.

At Pickering Beach east of Dover Air Force Base, National Guard trucks ferried about 50 residents to safety early Monday after the churning surf washed over the dune line and swirled around the pilings of the small cottages, burying some vehicles in sand and water.

Charlie Hinkle awoke about 6:30 a.m., looked out his window and saw that his home was a virtual island. "There was 4 feet of water underneath the house," he said.

## Ex-officials: Bush admin. ignored Iraqi corruption

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Bush administration repeatedly ignored corruption at the highest levels within the Iraqi government and kept secret potentially embarrassing information so as not to undermine its relationship with Baghdad, according to two former State Department employees.

Arthur Brennan, who briefly served in Baghdad as head of the department's Office of Accountability and Transparency last year, and James Mattil, who worked as the chief of staff, told Senate Democrats on Monday

that their office was understaffed and its warnings and recommendations ignored.

Brennan also alleges the State Department prevented a congressional aide visiting Baghdad from talking with staffers by insisting they were too busy. In reality, Brennan said, office members were watching movies at the embassy and on their computers. The staffers' workload had been cut dramatically because of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's "evisceration" of Iraq's top anti-corruption of-

fice, he said.

The State Department's policies "not only contradicted the anti-corruption mission but indirectly contributed to and has allowed corruption to fester at the highest levels of the Iraqi government," Brennan told the Senate Democratic Policy Committee.

The U.S. embassy "effort against corruption—including its new centerpiece, the now-defunct Office of Accountability and Transparency—was little more than 'window dressing,'" he added.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
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## Invitation For Bid IFB 08-028

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids from Regionally Accredited Institutions of Higher Learning for the Extension of College Level Coursework Leading to the Completion of a either a Bachelor's or Master's Degree. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-028" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **May 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-028, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: [delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp](mailto:delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp).

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**  
**Commissioner of Education**

/S/ **Carl F. de la Cruz**  
**Acting P&S Officer**



# Asia

## 2008 turning out to be a year of trouble for China

**BEIJING (AP)**—China hoped 2008 would be a yearlong celebration, a time to bask in the spotlight of the upcoming Beijing Olympics. Instead, the Year of the Rat has also brought a wave of troubles—both natural and man-made—that are putting a heavy strain on the communist leadership.

The 7.9 magnitude earthquake that struck Sichuan province Monday, killing thousands, is only the latest.

China has long experience with large-scale disasters—from coal mine explosions to chemical spills to floods that displace tens of thousands.

The central government prides itself on its ability to quickly react, usually with deployments from China's huge military corps. The ruling party's mandate in part rests on being able to deliver aid in emergencies.

But China's capacity to control disasters and how they play out in the media is being stretched this year. Its leaders are grappling with the fallout from multiple problems in the information-hungry Internet age when they had expected to

focus only on the Olympics.

"The Olympics are an important symbol of China's effort to ... get on the same gauge with the rest of the world. So they have attached a lot of importance to them," said Roger Des Forges, a China historian at University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

"But for most Chinese people, they are secondary to the quality of life that they are trying to achieve. So these questions of disasters are uppermost in people's minds, watching how the government is going to deal with them," he said.

China was quick to show its public response to Monday's quake. Just hours after it struck, Premier Wen Jiabao flew into Sichuan Province to oversee the emergency relief effort. Speaking from Dujiangyan City, where a high school collapsed, burying some 900 students, Wen acknowledged on national TV the task will be "especially challenging."

This year, China's problems began just before February's Lunar New Year, when the worst snowstorms in five decades hit the

densely populated southern and central region. They left scores dead, knocked out power across cities, and stranded hundreds of thousands during the country's single busiest travel period.

Meanwhile, its leaders also battled decade-high levels of inflation and struggled to improve the nation's image as a global manufacturer following last year's tainted drugs and food scandal and defective toy exports.

In March, huge anti-government riots erupted in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, sparking sympathy protests in Tibetan areas across western China. The violent protests were the biggest challenge to Chinese rule in the Himalayan region in nearly two decades.

The subsequent government crackdown brought sharp international criticism of Beijing's human rights record and its rule over Tibet. China has said that 22 people were killed, while Tibetan groups have said that many times that number died in the violence.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### 5 more children die of virus in China

**BEIJING (AP)**—Five more children have died of hand, foot and mouth disease in China, bringing the death toll to 39 since late March, the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday. A girl died in eastern Anhui province from enterovirus 71, a virus that causes a severe form of the disease, Xinhua said. Anhui is the worst-hit province, and was where the first wave of deaths from the disease were recorded in March. Another child died on the southern tropical island of Hainan and three in southern Guangdong province, but no further details were available about their cases, Xinhua said. Most cases of hand, foot and mouth in China this year have been blamed on enterovirus 71.

#### US begins aid flights to Myanmar

**YANGON, Myanmar (AP)**—A U.S. plane ferried relief to Myanmar for the first time Monday to help nearly 2 million cyclone victims facing disease and starvation, but the U.N. chief criticized the military junta for its "unacceptably slow response." Even as the death toll climbed, Myanmar's authoritarian regime continued to bar nearly all foreigners experienced in managing humanitarian crises from reaching survivors of Cyclone Nargis. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon chided the junta for its "unacceptably slow response" in helping victims of the disaster and warned of a deepening crisis. The U.S. military C-130 cargo plane filled with 14 tons of water, mosquito nets and blankets was unloaded in Yangon, providing what officials said was help for some 30,000 victims of the May 3 disaster.

#### Arroyo pardons 9 coup plotters

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo pardoned nine military officers who apologized after being convicted of a 2003 coup plot, saying Monday that the Philippines yearns for stability—not "political shenanigans." Arroyo made the announcement during a nationally televised ceremony marking the oath-taking of new military chief Gen. Alexander Yano. He replaced a general known for fiercely defending Arroyo against coup plotters and other threats. The government has struggled in recent years to head off unrest in the 120,000-strong military by fighting corruption, introducing reforms and modernizing equipment as it battles communist and Muslim rebels and al-Qaida-linked militants. The underfunded military is one of Asia's weakest.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
State Board of Education  
**Public School System**  
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



### Invitation For Bid IFB 08-027

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Computers and Accessories for William S. Reyes Elementary School**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-027" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **May 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-027, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp**.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

**/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**  
**Commissioner of Education**

**/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz**  
**Acting P&S Officer**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM • P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950  
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No:	PSS-072-2006 (Re-Announcement III)	Application & Employment Type:	<b>Non-Certified</b>
Position Title:	<b>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE</b>		
Pay Level/Step:	<b>UNGRADED</b>	Per Annum Salary:	<b>\$50,000.00 - \$ 65,000.00</b>
Opening Date:	<b>May 14, 2008</b>	Closing Date:	<b>May 28, 2008</b>
Location:	<b>PSS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION</b>		
Benefits:	Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays)		

#### Minimum Requirements:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years work experience and must hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; OR Master Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years related work experience.

**\*\*The complete job description can be obtained at the PSS-Human Resources Office, 3rd Floor-Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill.**

#### Conditional Requirements:

This position is considered "EXEMPT STATUS": Employee is paid on a salary basis and is not eligible for overtime pay or compensatory time pursuant to the Regulations for PSS of Non-Certified Personnel and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

#### Application Requirements:

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE). COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT <http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources> ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.



## World

## Iraq: Sadr City cease-fire signed

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Iraq's main Shiite political bloc and supporters of firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr signed a fragile cease-fire in Baghdad's Sadr City on Monday, hoping to end seven weeks of fighting that has left hundreds dead.

But the U.S. military has alleged that most Shiite extremists fighting Iraqi and U.S. forces in the teeming slum have splintered away from al-Sadr's Mahdi Army, and that the cleric's level of influence on those rogue groups is unclear. Many are thought to be trained and armed by Iranian forces. Iran denies the allegations.

Al-Sadr's representatives and

the rival United Iraqi Alliance agreed to institute the four-day cease-fire starting on Sunday, but talks over the details of the truce were not finished until a day later. The deal allows Iraqi forces to take over security in the militia stronghold of Sadr City on Wednesday.

"The mutual efforts of all have stood against civil war, and thanks to God we have left it behind our backs," proclaimed Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite.

The clashes erupted late March when Iraqi forces launched a crackdown in the southern city of Basra. The Sadrist accused al-

Maliki, a political rival, of trying to sideline them ahead of expected provincial elections in the fall.

The fighting spread through the south and to the capital, where Shiite extremists in Sadr City began firing rockets and mortars toward the heavily fortified Green Zone.

Al-Sadr effectively stopped his militia from fighting in Basra within days of the crackdown. But clashes escalated in Sadr City, drawing U.S. attack aircraft and tanks into the fighting.

Al-Sadr recently threatened to launch an all-out war against U.S.-led forces but ordered his militia to avoid Iraqi casualties.

His movement appears divided over whether to launch a full-scale fight against Americans or focus on political efforts.

The prime minister used the consensus that emerged from the cease-fire to seek a thaw in relations with the Sadrists.

"I thank all who responded to reason and the interests of country ignoring personal interests," al-Maliki said. "The government is targeting those who violate law and not targeting any political body."

Under the compromise deal, Iraqi forces will try to refrain from seeking American help to restore

order. The U.S. military officials on Sunday said they were supporting the government forces and would take their lead.

The Sadrists, meanwhile, rejected calls by al-Maliki to surrender weapons but agreed to allow Iraqi security sweeps, saying Mahdi fighters have no "medium or heavy weapons."

"We have agreed on a cease-fire and to end displaying arms in public," said Sheik Salah al-Obeidi, an aide to al-Sadr. "But we did not agree on disbanding the Mahdi Army to hand over its weapons."

The Sadr movement is keen

on keeping its 60,000-strong militia force intact.

The cease-fire comes as the U.S. military has largely finished the building of a barrier—reaching up to a height of 12 feet—to isolate extremists from using the southern section of Sadr City and to disrupt supply and escape routes for militants. The fighting was concentrated mostly in the southern part of the Shiite slum of about 2.5 million people.

Despite the cease-fire, the U.S. military said three militants were killed in Sadr City on Sunday and early Monday after attacking troops with rockets and small arms. Iraqi health officials said the latest clashes left two dead and 25 wounded, but it was unclear whether any gunmen were among them.

## Fighting in Tripoli, but Lebanon's capital is calm

**BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)**—Fighting between pro- and anti-government factions jumped to Lebanon's north Monday, but a grim calm hung over the nearly empty streets of Beirut—a capital crippled by roadblocks, suspicion and fear.

As black-clad Shiite militants of Hezbollah carried their latest dead to burial, so did the families and friends of civilians caught in the middle of combat that has routed Sunni factions supporting the Western-allied government from Muslim west Beirut.

More than 50 people were confirmed dead since fighting erupted Wednesday—first in Beirut, then in the mountains overlooking the city and on Monday in the northern city of Tripoli. It is the worst sectarian violence to wrack Lebanon since a 15-year civil war ended in 1990.

That war killed 150,000 people and laid waste to many parts of Beirut, leaving the city divided into ethnic and religious districts deeply suspicious of one another, and the new fighting has torn open old wounds.

"They abandoned their cause against Israel and have come to



A fighter loyal to the government flashes a "V" sign in a Sunni neighborhood during heavy fighting with pro-Syrian fighters allied with Hezbollah at the northern city of Tripoli, Lebanon, Monday, May 12, 2008.

kill us," Wadad Abdel Nasser Shamaa, a 27-year-old Sunni, said of Hezbollah's militiamen. Her brother, Mohammed, was killed Thursday night when Hezbollah and its allies swept through the predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Tarik Jadideh.

Their father, Abdel-Nasser Shamaa, 47, a vegetable vendor, said he once sympathized with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and even pasted a picture of the Shiite cleric to his bedroom mirror. He wants to know why his son was killed in what

he called indiscriminate shooting by Hezbollah.

He said 22-year-old Mohammed was not a combatant. He said his son was visiting his parents when fighting erupted and he rushed off to get to his pregnant wife.

## Chad closes border with Sudan

**N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP)**—Chad closed its border with Sudan on Monday and put a halt to bilateral trade, a minister said, a day after Sudan severed diplomatic ties with Chad.

Communications Minister Mahamat Hissene said that the Cabinet decided during a meeting chaired by President Idriss Deby to cut all economic ties with Sudan, including freezing the assets of a Sudanese bank in Chad and stopping all trade between the two countries.

The broadcast and sale of Sudanese music was also banned, Hissene said, reading a statement on state-owned television and radio.

The decision came a day after Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir severed diplomatic ties with Chad following a Saturday rebel attack near the Sudanese capital of Khartoum that al-Bashir says Chad supported.

The measures Chad took Monday go beyond any the central Af-

rican nation has effected against Sudan since it severed diplomatic ties in April 2006 following a failed rebel attack on the Chadian capital, N'Djamena. Libyan and diplomatic efforts of other countries saw the two restore relations in August that year.

"After Sudan unilaterally broke ties, the Chadian government has a right to take all measures necessary to ensure the security of its territory and its citizens, protect its economic and cultural interests to avoid any surprise," said Hissene.

On Saturday, the Justice and Equality Movement rebel group launched an unprecedented attack near Khartoum, hundreds of miles from their bases in the country's far west.

The attack was the closest Darfur rebels have ever come to the seat of Sudan's government, which they accuse of marginalizing ethnic African minorities in Darfur and worsening the region's humanitarian crisis.

## Police widen probe into Olmert donations

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Israeli police raided Jerusalem's City Hall on Monday, searching offices and confiscating documents as part of a widening corruption inquiry against Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Olmert is suspected of illicitly accepting large sums of cash from a Jewish American donor. Some of the donations are believed to have taken place during Olmert's 10-year tenure as mayor of Jerusalem.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the police's anti-fraud team conducted the raid. He said the seized documents were connected to Olmert time as mayor between 1993 and 2003, but had no further details on their contents.

The investigation has cast a shadow over Israel's 60th anniversary celebrations and embarrassed the prime minister at a time when he should be enjoying the limelight. President Bush arrives this week to take part in the national celebrations.

Olmert's legal troubles have

also raised doubts about his ability to reach a peace deal with the Palestinians. With U.S. backing, Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas have set a year-end target for a peace agreement meant to end six decades of conflict. During his visit, Bush is expected to take stock of the talks and push for more progress.

The scandal has set off speculation that Olmert may not be able to remain in office long enough to complete the negotiations. Olmert, who denies wrongdoing, has said he would resign if he is indicted, and even if he hangs on to power, he may not be strong enough politically to win support for a peace deal.

A poll Monday said six of 10 Israelis think Olmert is not capable of promoting peace with the Palestinians because of the investigation. Sixty percent of those polled also said they don't believe Olmert's claim that he didn't funnel money into his own pocket. The survey had a margin of error of 4.5 percentage points.

## Polish Holocaust hero dies at 98

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)**—Irena Sendler—credited with saving some 2,500 Jewish children from the Nazi Holocaust by smuggling them out of the Warsaw Ghetto, some of them in baskets—died Monday, her family said. She was 98.

Sendler, among the first to be honored by Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial as a Righteous Among Nations for her wartime heroism, died at a Warsaw hospital, daughter Janina Zgrzemska told The Associated Press.

President Lech Kaczynski expressed "great regret" over Sendler's death, calling her "extremely brave" and "an exceptional person." In recent years, Kaczynski had spearheaded a campaign to put Sendler's name forward as a can-



In this April 11, 2007 file photo, Irena Sendler smiles as she is awarded with the Order of the Smile during a ceremony in Warsaw, Poland.

didate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Sendler was a 29-year-old social worker with the city's

welfare department when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, launching World

War II. Warsaw's Jews were forced into a walled-off ghetto.

Seeking to save the ghetto's children, Sendler masterminded risky rescue operations. Under the pretext of inspecting sanitary conditions during a typhoid outbreak, she and her assistants ventured inside the ghetto—and smuggled out babies and small children in ambulances and in trams, sometimes wrapped up as packages.

Teenagers escaped by joining teams of workers forced to labor outside the ghetto. They were placed in families, orphanages, hospitals or convents.

"Irena was truly a noble lady and a great humanitarian who helped save thousands of children," said Stanlee Stahl, executive vice president of the New York-based Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.



# Campus Life

## Be the next Micronesia Challenge champion

If you are between the ages of 17-25, enrolled in college or university and are passionate about protecting the resources of Micronesia, you can be the next Micronesia Challenge champion.

In order to assist with the implementation of conservation strategies toward achieving the goals set by the Micronesia Challenge, internship opportunities were initiated and the CNMI has two vacant MC Champion positions.

"The MC Champions will lead the design and implementation of a vibrant and comprehensive MC Outreach and Education Program that will bring the Micronesia Challenge message to every home in Micronesia and will gain the participation of key groups around the region," said Willy Kostka, director for Micronesia Conservation Trust, based in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

The internship is for one year, and may be extended for an additional year. The MC Champions are expected to spend at least 10 hours a week conducting Micronesia Challenge education and awareness activities for the residents of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The Micronesia Challenge, launched in 2006, is a commitment by the Chief Executives of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Republic of Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern



Nine interns were selected to champion the Micronesia Challenge in their respective regions. This year, the CNMI is looking for two interns who are self-motivated and passionate about the environment.

Mariana Islands (CNMI) to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Mi-

cronesia by 2020.

Detailed information about the MC Champion duties, entrance requirements and deadlines can be accessed

at [www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp). Interested applicants may also contact Reina Camacho at Division of Environmental Quality at 664-8500. (CoCo)

## Rota students research NMI history in Guam



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB 9th grade Northern Marianas History class, from left, Jenny Dela Cruz, Crystal Calvo, and Jonicia Taisacan. Not in photo: Pauline Manglona and NMI History teacher Edward Maratita, Jr.

The 9th grade History class of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, under the direction of PRTI supervisor and ESFDB instructor Edward Maratita Jr., recently had the opportunity to travel to Guam to conduct research at the Micronesian Area Research Center at the University of Guam.

Their research about NMI history serves as a basis for analyzing knowledge claims in areas such as Science, Mathematics, Human Sciences, Arts,

and Ethics. The last three involved, among other things, issues concerning cultures and values.

"Due to limited learning resources on Rota, our teacher had to improvise by taking us to Guam for our research," explained ESFDB 9th grader Jenny Dela Cruz.

According to fellow classmate Jonicia Taisacan, the trip was an educational experience "and what made it more exciting [was that] it was a

group effort."

"It was fun because we did not only do our class research but took part in a drug prevention conference," added ESFDB 9th grader Crystal Calvo.

The students are also part of the PRTI DARE/GUTS Student Role Model program and ESFDB DARE/GUTS Alumni. Aside from their school research project, they participated in the 18th Annual Youth For Youth Conference held April 18-20, 2008, in Guam.

The students acknowledge the support of Vicente and Rose Dela Cruz, Rodney and Millie Taisacan, Roman Calvo and Vivian Atalig, UOG-MARC staff, Barrigada Vice Mayor June Blas (Guam), CNMI Public School System board member Tanya King, Sgt. Major Herman Atalig, ESFDB Administration and staff, PRTI Training Cadres, Bay Breeze Restaurant-Rota, and the Rota Community. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### MOTHEREAD PARTICIPANTS

Motheread participants comprising six parents were given certificates of completion on May 8, 2008, at the Oleai Head Start after finishing the eight-session training. The participants are shown here posing with Viola Guerrero, third from left, Motheread coordinator, and Brian Manabat, third from right, instructor.

### CAMPUS BULLETIN

#### SSHS PTSA meeting today

To all parents/legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School: There will be a PTA meeting today, Wednesday May 14, 2008 at 6pm in the cafeteria. (PR)

#### TES registration schedule

Tanapag Elementary School will start registering returning students, new students and kindergarten students until May 30, 2008 from 8am to 4pm at the main office.

#### Registration Requirements:

Registration Form  
Child must be 5 years old by August 31, 2008. (For Kindergarten)  
Withdrawal/Transfer Form from previous school (For transferring students)  
Birth Certificate  
School Entrance Health Certificate  
Copy of updated Health Insurance/Updated  
Medicaid  
Map to Residence/Home  
Copy of Power of Attorney or Guardianship  
(If applicable)  
Please call the school at 664-3425/6 or 237-3161/4 for any question. (PR)

#### WSR's May/June 2008 events

May 12-16: Registration for WSR ongoing  
1st grade students  
May 12-16: Standards based assessment week 3rd/4th/5th/6th grade  
May 13: NJHS meeting 2:30 pm, room g-2  
May 14: April/May peace builders diners club, 1pm cafeteria  
May 14: Pizza night fundraising  
May 16: Book fair, 8am-2pm  
May 19-21: RFA/BRI testing (half day)  
May 23: 3rd grade campout  
May 26: Memorial Day holiday (no classes)  
May 28: 6th grade promotional ceremony, 10am, multi purpose center  
June 2: 4th quarter award ceremony  
June 3: Last day of school/report card day  
June 9-30: Open Registration

Due to the safety concerns that we have with students wearing "heelies" at school, WSR Elementary School will not allow the use of heelies on campus. Students may wear the shoe, but without the wheels attached. Thank you for your cooperation. (PR)

#### GES starts Kindergarten registration

The Garapan Elementary School would like to announce the opening of registration for Kindergarten students.

Registration will take place in the main office beginning May 12, 2008, between the hours of 7:30am-9am and 1pm-2:20pm. Kindergarten students must be 5 years of age on or before the end of Aug. 31, 2008. Be sure to bring copies of all documents. GES charges a 25-cent fee per copy requested.

#### Required documents:

Completed registration form  
Copy of Birth Certificate or Passport  
School Entrance Health Certificate  
Copy of Health Insurance (government, private, Medicaid or student accident insurance accepted)  
Map to residence  
GES zoning areas include parts of Puerto Rico, upper/lower Navy Hill, Garapan, Chinatown, Northern Gualo Rai and Northern Beach Road (from the Gualo Rai traffic light to Marianas Eye Institute north). (PR)



Life & Style

A Mother's Day recital at the Park



Talented students of RC Sablan School of Music wow the crowd with their song presentations.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The RC Sablan School of Music celebrated Mother's Day on Sunday night with its 2nd Annual Musical Recital at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater.

Promising young students showed off their talents by performing piano solos, piano ensembles and voice presentations. The program began with an invocation by Pastor Eric Abragan followed by an inspirational message by Fr. Ambeth Dela Cruz, and with closing remarks by its founder, Ramon C. Sablan.

Here are some pictures from the event:



Teacher Joyce poses with her students.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Students perform *The Greatest Love of All* for their mothers during the finale of the program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Iramhel N. Talon and Hoi Lun Yu play a four-hand piano piece *The Band Played On*.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Shandel Cayabyab and Alexsa C. Go entertain the crowd with the favorite Filipino folk song *Carinosa*.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Michelle Barkdull and Hoi Lun Yu show their talent by playing *Sweet and Low*.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

RCS Chorus members perform a special song number for mothers in observance of Mother's Day.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Iris Joan Robert and Michaelle Muna play John Thompson's *Greetings*.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hanako Eunice C. Shirata and Alyssa M. Benavente perform Bette Midler's *Wind Beneath My Wings*.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Alexis Louis C. Adelantar performs a Broadway hit *Someone's Waiting For You*.



# Valedictorian is different kind of 'Morehouse Man'

ATLANTA (AP)—From his first day at Morehouse College—the country's only institution of higher learning dedicated to the education of black men—Joshua Packwood has been a standout.

His popularity got him elected dorm president as a freshman. His looks and physique made him a fashion-show favorite. His intellect made him a Rhodes Scholar finalist. His work ethic landed him a job at the prestigious investment banking firm Goldman Sachs in New York City.

But it's his skin that has made all of this an anomaly. This month, Packwood is set to take the stage and address his classmates as the first white valedictorian in Morehouse's 141-year history.

The 22-year-old from Kansas City, Mo., will graduate on May 18 with a perfect 4.0 GPA and a degree in economics.

He could have gone elsewhere, to a school like Columbia, Stanford or Yale, but his four-year journey through Morehouse has taught him a few things that they could not, and he makes it clear that he has no regrets.

"I've been forced to see the world in a different perspective, that I don't think I could've gotten anywhere else," he said. "None of the Ivies, no matter how large their enrollment is, no matter how many Nobel laureates they have on their faculty ... none of them could've provided me with the perspective I have now."

■ ■ ■

When Packwood applied to Morehouse, he had frequent conversations with George Gray, an alumnus who was a recruiter at the school. Gray was impressed by Packwood's credentials and spent months trying to talk the sought-after senior into choosing Morehouse over other elite schools.

"He had outstanding numbers," said Gray, now director of admissions at historically black Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark. "He was the kind of kid we were looking for to be a presidential scholar."

After several conversations, Packwood began to suspect that

Gray had no idea that he was white. His suspicions were confirmed when one of Gray's calls caught Packwood in the middle of track practice.

"Don't let the white kids walk you down," Gray quipped.

"Wait," Packwood responded. "You know I'm white, right?"

Silence. Uneasy laughter. Confirmation.

"The challenge was to get the best student that we could, and Josh definitely fit that," Gray said.

And for Packwood, knowing that he had been picked on his merits, and not as a token white recruit, made the difference.

"That said I could come here and, ironically, be accepted for who I am," Packwood said. "I thought I made the right decision then, and I know I made the right decision now."

It was not as if this was the first time Packwood experienced life in the minority. He was among the few white students in his class at Grandview Senior High School in Kansas City, Mo. He has mixed-race siblings and his mother was married to a black man. Packwood's experiences growing up have helped him navigate black culture while remaining comfortable with his own complexion.

Packwood's mere presence on campus wouldn't make history at this school founded by a black minister and cabinet-maker two years after the end of the Civil War. Howard Zehr, Morehouse's first white student, graduated in 1966, and there have been dozens of other whites on campus since.

And so Packwood turned down Columbia University, postponing his dream of living in New York City. He ignored some in his family who warned that he might not have the same opportunities he would have as a Columbia graduate, and headed South.

Packwood still laughs when he remembers his first day on campus, wandering the grounds in pajama pants and getting stares from black classmates who wondered if the freshman wasn't a wayward student from Georgia Tech, Georgia State or perhaps Emory University.



AP

Morehouse College 2008 class valedictorian Josh Packwood, of Kansas City, Mo., poses for a portrait on campus, Tuesday April 22, 2008, in Atlanta.



Morehouse College 2008 class valedictorian Josh Packwood, of Kansas City, Mo., is pictured in front of a statue of Martin Luther King and the Howard Thurman monument on the campus, Tuesday April 22, 2008, in Atlanta.

After convincing the photographer to take his student ID, Packwood headed to his room in Brazeal Hall. Shortly after, his roommate arrived with his mother. Four years later, Packwood still can't get over the irony: After years of being one of a few blacks at majority-white schools in Dallas, Phillip Smith-ey had come to Morehouse to get the "black experience."

Instead, he was sharing a room with the only white guy in his class.

■ ■ ■

When he came to Morehouse, Packwood was sweating a bit under his swagger, which is why he was reluctant to run for president of his dorm at the end of his freshman year. The novelty was wearing off, but Packwood didn't want his new friends to think he was the white guy trying to "act black" or take over their school.

Classes proved to be a challenge socially and academically when the discussions shifted to issues of race. Once, Packwood was asked to sit on a panel about interracial relationships. Though he had dated black girls since high school, he spent the first hour of the panel getting warmed up, feeling out the crowd and trying to couch his thoughts.

"It was kind of heated, and there were very strong views on both sides," he said. "But eventually I realized they put me on the panel not to just pander to the crowd, but to voice my opinion."

Packwood said such exchanges taught him a lesson.

"Sometimes I kind of wanted to hold back," he acknowledged. "A lot of the professors and students have been like, 'No, don't hold back. We want your perspective here. If we're

not going to get it from you, it's going to be very difficult for us to get it somewhere else.'"

Both students and faculty, he said, seemed to appreciate his honesty.

"The few times I have held back and tried to pick my words wisely or even go against what I truly believe, that's when I've caught the most flak," he said.

With each semester, Packwood's grades remained high, his confidence grew and his resume became more impressive. Summers were spent on Wall Street at Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, he studied abroad in London and Costa Rica, and his studies have taken him to China and Switzerland.

He also drew attention with his looks—some Atlanta University Center coeds took to calling him "Tom Cruise." His photo album on Facebook shows a smiling Packwood

posing with dozens of young, black women who fill his page with notes.

As Morehouse embraced him, Packwood became an unlikely ambassador for the school.

"Josh Packwood is Morehouse," the college's president, Robert Franklin, said in his inauguration speech in February. "He happens to be Euro-American and brings much appreciated diversity to our campus."

Wendell Marsh, a junior English and French major who is black, said talking to Packwood as a high school senior helped make up his mind to come to Morehouse.

"Right now we live in a time where people say the black institution is obsolete, that you can get a better education at a majority institution," Marsh said. "To see a white guy who had declined Harvard for Morehouse, I figured it was good enough for me."

Packwood raised "the bar for everyone," said Stanton Fears, a senior economics major.

"The best man got it, that's how I look at it," Fears said. "It's about equality here, too. If he wants to come here and make a name for himself, he should be allowed the same types of things we're allowed."

Being surrounded by black men for his undergraduate career has taught him more about diversity, Packwood said.

"I've been here for four years and yet, I cannot give you the definition of black," he said. "I cannot tell you what a black man is. I really learned to look much deeper. It takes a lot of effort to know people."

■ ■ ■

Shake. Lean. Embrace. Release. The soulful ritual is repeated several times as Packwood greets his fellow classmates on one of his last days on campus. Some congratulated him amid the buzz that he might be named valedictorian. There were those who thought there would be some bitterness, but animosity for Packwood's accomplishments was scarce that day.

Brandon L. Douglas, a junior business major who met Packwood as an intern on Wall Street after his freshman year, said Packwood has been a standout not for his skin, but for his successes on campus.

"He kind of sticks out, but he's still relatable and he works with all of us," Douglas said. "You don't see a skin color with him anymore. You start looking more at his character."

Douglas' words echo the most famous words of Morehouse's most famous alumnus, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., in his "I Have A Dream" speech. Not far from where Packwood is standing looms a towering statue of King, his bronze finger pointing toward the horizon.

It's just a coincidence, but on this day, King is pointing toward Packwood.



# Will Edie ever return to 'Desperate Housewives'?

**NEW YORK (AP)**—When Edie packed up and left Wisteria Lane at the end of Sunday's "Desperate Housewives," viewers were caught by surprise.

The sudden exit of the neighborhood's blond troublemaker has fans wondering how this plot twist will affect the ABC hit series, and whether Nicollette Sheridan, who has played Edie during its four seasons, will be back.

For weeks, rumors swirled that Sheridan was out of the show. Both ABC and Sheridan's publicist, Nicole Perna, have been tightlipped in response to inquiries about her imminent departure.

But creator and executive

producer Marc Cherry was slightly more forthcoming. Yes, Edie's gone, he told The Associated Press on Friday. Then he added: "She won't be back for a few years."

What could that mean? Hadn't Cherry already announced he will bring his series to a close at the end of the 2010-11 season, just three years from now?

"We do three more seasons and then it's done," he said with a chuckle. "I will tear down all the sets personally."

"I want to be sure that when we leave the air, people still care."

But right now, what viewers really care about is Edie's future—if any. Could her return in

what Cherry carefully described as "a few years" have anything to do with another recent rumor that "Desperate Housewives" will adopt a "flash-forward" narrative device (akin to the storytelling style on "Lost"), which could restore Edie to the show as seen a few years hence?

"I only address one rumor at a time," Cherry replied.

Edie bolted on Sunday's episode when the titular four housewives—Susan, Lynette, Bree and Gabrielle—faced her down after she had pulled one too many schemes against them.

"We're done," Susan (Teri Hatcher) told her. "From now on, you are invisible."

"And we're gonna make sure

every woman in a 5-mile radius knows the kind of c--- you pull," said Gabrielle (Eva Longoria).

Edie tried to apologize.

"Did you hear something?" Bree (Marcia Cross) said as the women strode away. "Neither did I."

A few minutes later, viewers saw Edie toss a suitcase into her sports car and drive away.

"A climactic scene," Cherry told the AP.

But as the show nears its two-hour season finale next Sunday, fans are desperate to know: Is Sheridan done? Or is she still part of the show?

"We'll have to wait until next season and see," Cherry replied.

## Sex and the City premieres in London

**LONDON (AP)**—The "Sex and the City" stars lit up London's Leicester Square for the world premiere of the cinematic sequel to their New York adventures, delighting fans with glamorous—and sometimes quirky—outfits that helped make the show an international hit.

Sarah Jessica Parker, who plays columnist Carrie Bradshaw, stole the show with her soaring Philip Treacy hat. She was joined by co-stars Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis, known on screen as Samantha, Miranda and Charlotte. They were eager to gloss over the reported problems that delayed the film's production—and chat instead of the boost the series has given their careers.

"Professionally it's been the best 10 years of my life. I wouldn't have wanted to have done it any differently with any different women or any different men," Parker said. "So it's been glorious."

All were dressed in the designer



American actresses from left, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon, Kim Cattrall and Sarah Jessica Parker arrive at the World Premiere of "Sex and the City" at the Odeon Leicester Square in London, Monday, May 12, 2008.

clothes that made the series about sex and shopping such a huge fashion-industry hit. Parker's hat, bearing flowers, grasses and a butterfly, was complemented by a pale green dress by Alexander McQueen—an outfit Carrie would have loved. Cattrall wore a red Vivienne Westwood dress and Nixon was in a floor length black pleated Calvin Klein gown. Davis wore a more modest vintage fuschia dress.

There had been some controversy over the decision to hold the premiere in London rather than New York, the city showcased so beautifully in the series. But Nixon said Monday's premiere was just a build up to the main event in New York.

"We're having a kind of smallish premiere here (and) we're having a smallish premiere in Berlin. We're building to the New York premiere which is enormous and happens just before the film opens worldwide," she said.

The film opens May 30 in the United States.

## Dwight Yoakam to make 24th appearance on 'The Tonight Show'

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—Dwight Yoakam will make his 24th appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" this week, breaking the record for most musical performances by any artist.

The singer's Los Angeles-based spokeswoman says Yoakam will perform on the NBC late-night program's outdoor concert series Thursday.

Yoakam, 51, is currently tied with Lyle Lovett for the show's most musical performances with 23.

Besides his appearances with Leno, Yoakam also was on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" six times, beginning in 1986.

"Jay and I always joked about it," Yoakam said Monday from his home in Los Angeles. "I guess Lyle and I have made a

career of doing Jay's show."

Sometimes he was there to promote a record, sometimes a movie. Whichever, he always brought his guitar. "I figured since I was there I might as well sing."

Some appearances stick out more than others, like the time Leno asked him to help Ellen DeGeneres put lyrics she wrote to music, impromptu. Or the time he and his late friend and mentor Buck Owens went on together to sing "Streets of Bakersfield." Or when he flew 20 hours nonstop to entertain troops with Leno in the Middle East during the holidays.

"The great thing about everybody there is they've always been very willing to allow me

the latitude to do what I wanted to do. I did things like 'Back of Your Hand,' which was a very low-key track. One time I went on with a (Latin) brass section and did 'Silver Bells.'"

The first time he did the show, back when Carson was host, he was on with a girl who blew the world's largest bubblegum bubble. As he recalls, he was only the second act, after ZZ Top, to perform with his own group of musicians instead of the show's house orchestra.

"I broke out of the clubs in L.A. and had a grass-roots following there. I think that helped. Johnny got it right from the outset," said Yoakam, whose many hits include "Honky Tonk

Man," "A Thousand Miles from Nowhere" and "Fast as You."

Leno carried on the tradition when he took over.

"Every musical act, not just us, he walks to the side of the stage and watches you. That says as much about Jay as it does the act performing."

"Jay turns a pretty good wrench, and hotrod mechanics usually have hotrod music around them when they're working or driving. I think Jay has a great appreciation for music, and that's allowed me the opportunity and a place to go play," Yoakam added.

Yoakam's latest album is "Dwight Sings Buck," a musical tribute to his friend. When he does the show Thursday, one of the tunes he plans to perform is the Owens classic "Act Naturally."



Singer R. Kelly, center, arrives with bodyguards for the second day of jury selection in his child pornography trial at the Cook County Criminal Courthouse in Chicago, Monday, May 12, 2008.

## At least three jurors are chosen for R. Kelly trial

**CHICAGO (AP)**—The wife of a Baptist preacher from R. Kelly's hometown, a business executive and a telecommunications company employee were the first three jurors chosen Monday for the R&B superstar's child pornography trial.

The executive, a middle-aged man, called child pornography "the lowest of the low" during questioning by the judge and attorneys. But he said he felt he could give a fair trial to the 41-year-old Kelly, who is accused of videotaping himself having sex with a girl as young as 13.

At one point, Cook County Circuit Judge Vincent Gaughan said nobody in the room condoned child pornography and Kelly appeared to nod his head in agreement.

Kelly, known for sexually charged hits like "Bump N' Grind," has pleaded not guilty. The alleged victim, now 23, says it wasn't her on the videotape.

The preacher's wife from Olympia Fields, where Kelly lives, said her religious beliefs would not affect her service as a juror. The judge reminded her that the trial involved "laws of man, not the laws of God," and she said she understood.

Potential jurors who were dismissed included a man in his 50s who prosecutors said clearly was awe-struck by Kelly's celebrity and a security guard who said Kelly would have "some explaining to do" if he was on the video.

Sixteen jurors, four of them alternates, are to be chosen for the trial. Court officials have said questioning and selection from the 150 potential jurors is expected to take about a week.

The alleged victim's denial that she is on the videotape will present prosecutors with a unique challenge once the trial is under way. And Kelly's lawyers—including prominent Chicago attorney Ed Genson—haven't admitted it's Kelly in the video.

Prosecutors say the videotape was made between Jan. 1, 1998, and Nov. 1 2000, and that the alleged victim was born in September 1984. Kelly was indicted on pornography charges June 5, 2002, after the tape surfaced.

If jurors find the Grammy-winning artist guilty, he could go to prison for up to 15 years.

Kelly's lawyers had argued any jury pool has been irrevocably tainted because of pretrial publicity.

But Gaughan denied a defense motion to postpone the trial, which had already been delayed for six years, suggesting jury selection could weed out any tainted jurors.

Although Kelly won a Grammy in 1997 for the gospel-like song "I Believe I Can Fly," his biggest hits are bawdy ballads like "Ignition" and his current single, "Hair Braider." He is due to release a new album in July.



# Paul McCartney granted divorce decree

**LONDON (AP)**—Sometimes love isn't all you need. A judge in London granted a preliminary divorce Monday to former Beatle Paul McCartney and Heather Mills. If no one objects, the divorce will be final in six weeks.

Mills, 40, will emerge from the rancorous divorce with a settlement of \$47.5 million but a reputation damaged by her televised outbursts against McCartney.

Neither McCartney nor Mills was in court Monday, which might have been a good thing. At the end of a hearing in March, Mills stole the show by emptying a pitcher of water on the head of McCartney's lawyer, Fiona Shackleton.

"Mrs. Shackleton said something under her breath so I cleansed and baptized her,"



In this Oct. 15, 2004 file photo, singer Sir Paul McCartney, with his wife Heather Mills McCartney, waves to photographers, as they arrive for the 4th Annual Adopt-A-Minefield gala, in Los Angeles.

Mills said afterward. "I thought she looked fantastic—I thought it did her the world of good."

Mills will retain custody of the couple's 4-year-old daughter, Beatrice. McCartney will retain the

bulk of his fortune, estimated by the court at \$880 million.

The split makes McCartney, at age 65, the last of The Beatles to get a divorce.

John Lennon left his first wife,

Cynthia, for Yoko Ono. Ringo Starr and his first wife, Maureen, divorced after 10. And George Harrison's marriage to Patti Boyd ended after 11 years.

But McCartney's marriage to the former Linda Eastman endured 19 years, until her death in 1998.

He married Mills, whose left leg was amputated below the knee after a 1993 motorcycle accident, in an Irish castle in 2002. They separated four years later.

Last year, Mills claimed in interviews that McCartney had failed to protect her and their daughter from slander, death threats and other abuse, and she accused the media of persecuting her.

In November, she said she had been "treated worse than a murderer or a pedophile," despite years of work for land mine victims and animal welfare charities.

## Neverland Ranch foreclosure auction canceled



This aerial view of Michael Jackson's Neverland ranch in Santa Ynez, Calif., is shown in this Dec. 22, 1993, file photo.

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A foreclosure auction scheduled this week for Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch was canceled after an investment company bought the loan.

Colony Capital LLC spokeswoman Caroline Luz said the loan purchase was recently made by Colony and the auction slated for Wednesday was off, the Los Angeles Times reported Monday.

In a statement released Sunday by a Jackson spokesman who identified himself as B. Michael, the singer said he was "pleased with recent developments involving Neverland Ranch ... that would allow me to focus on the future."

Jackson had gone into default on the \$24.5 million he owes on the 2,500-acre spread in Santa Barbara County. He has struggled to pay his debts in recent years after his financial empire crumbled following his arrest in 2003 on child molestation charges. A jury later acquitted him and he hasn't lived at Neverland for the past two years.

Jackson's attorney, L. Londell McMillan, declined to comment to The Associated Press on Sunday. A call by the AP to Colony Capital was referred to a public relations firm.

Jackson bought the property in 1988 and turned it into a miniature amusement park with rides, including a merry-go-round, Ferris wheel and roller coaster, and a zoo.

## Paging Dr. Jones: Crystal skull stolen

**CLAREMONT, Calif. (AP)**—Indiana Jones better get his alibi ready.

A large crystal skull similar to those at the center of the upcoming Harrison Ford movie was recently stolen from a New Age store, puzzling employees in part because of the laid-back nature of shop regulars.

"We have zero shoplifting in here, and I have no idea why anyone would take something as lovely as that," said Persis Newland, owner of Kindred Spirits in Claremont, about 30 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

The skull, named Solar Ray by owner Don Marr, had been on loan at Kindred Spirits for about four months and went missing about two weeks ago. It had sat on an altar in the store's classroom area and was considered one of the shop's prized objects.

"He was on an altar, and he just enjoyed being here," said employee Kristen Nestor, who supervises the store's weekly crystal-reading classes. "He participated in our classes."

Nestor said she believes the skull is as old as 500 years.

"He likes to travel and things like that," Nestor said. "He was



In this image released by Jane Green Photography on Monday, May 12, 2008, a crystal skull, similar to those at the center of the upcoming film "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," is displayed in a bed of small crystals.

here for about four months, just enjoying everyone who comes through here."

Marr filed a police report on the missing skull last week, but police have had no luck so far.

Legend has it that the ancient Maya possessed 13 crystal skulls which, when united, hold the power of saving the Earth. Some version of the story is the basis for "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," which opens in U.S. theaters on May 22.

Hundreds of crystal skulls are believed to be in existence, which experts dismiss as fakes made by antiquities traders in the 19th century. All the same, believers say the skulls have powers to heal and influence natural events.

Newland believes the attention the film has focused on the skulls may have prompted the theft.

## Production of ABC's 'Ugly Betty' moving to NYC

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Production of ABC's "Ugly Betty" is moving to New York. The announcement was made Monday by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Governor David Paterson and ABC Studios President Mark Pedowitz. They say the show will take advantage of a 35 percent tax credit from the city and state when it makes the move from Los Angeles.

"Ugly Betty" stars Emmy winner America Ferrera as Betty Suarez, a young woman from Queens who works for a fashion magazine.

The comedy will be filmed in Manhattan and Queens. It is expected to create more than 200 full and part-time jobs.

"Law & Order," "30 Rock" and "Gossip Girl" are filmed in Manhattan.

## CBS picking up 4 dramas, 2 comedies for next season

**NEW YORK (AP)**—CBS plans to put on two new dramas where psychic ability plays important roles.

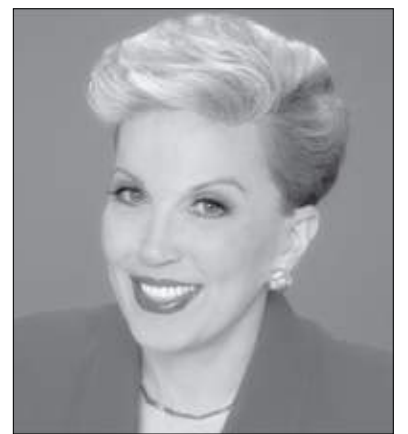
The network is picking up four new dramas and two comedies for next TV season, which will be announced as part of its schedule presentation to advertisers on Wednesday, according to a Hollywood executive who is familiar with CBS' planning and spoke on condition of anonymity to not pre-empt the announcement.

Half of those series are ideas that have been successful overseas.

The drama "The Ex List," based on a show from Israel, is about a woman who contacts all of her former boyfriends after a prophet tells her she has already met the man she's going to marry.

## Bride-to-be confesses her lack of kitchen confidence

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** My fiancé, "Keith," and I are being married at the end of June. We met at a fraternity party last fall and knew right away we were meant for each other. We're both in college in Hawaii. We don't live together—and that has been lucky for me because Keith doesn't realize how inexperienced I am in the kitchen.

He comes from the mainland. He is used to home-cooked meals and has often talked about family dinners and how good his mom is at entertaining. The only thing my mom is good at is making reservations. At our house if we didn't eat out, we ate takeout.

I know Keith will expect me to cook after our wedding—at least sometimes. I have gone to the bookstore at the mall, but all the fancy cookbooks with elaborate recipes overwhelm me. All I want to do is learn to make a few simple dishes. Can you help me out here?

—COOKING IMPAIRED IN HONOLULU

**DEAR COOKING IMPAIRED:** I'll try. Where is it written that after your wedding, YOU must do all the cooking? These days many couples share that responsibility by taking turns or cooking together. If you raise the subject with your fiancé, you may find that Keith not only enjoyed family dinners, but also spent time with his mother in the kitchen while she prepared them.

If that turns out not to be the case, then you and Keith should consider taking a basic cooking course together before—or shortly after—the wedding, so you don't starve to death.

Many brides-to-be are given "recipe showers" in which friends and relatives share favorite, easy-to-prepare family favorites to ease them on the path to domesticity. I'm sure if you asked your future mother-in-law, she would be pleased to contribute some of hers.

I publish a collection of more than 100 delicious recipes for soups, salads, main course and desserts. Not only are they time-tested and mouthwatering, they are also easy to prepare. They can be ordered by sending a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Summer is nearly here, and with it comes the promise of family reunions and visits. My cookbooklet set contains tips on entertaining, and lots of recipes to use when families get together to celebrate holidays and special occasions. Both my mother and I have used them with great success when entertaining friends and family.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I was standing with a friend when another friend came over to us and said loudly, "You two are really short!" The friend I was standing with walked off offended, while I just stood there looking at the ignorant person and not knowing what to say. Let me explain, this isn't the first time the ignoramus has said this to me. What would you do in this situation?

—SPEECHLESS IN AUBURN, CALIF.

**DEAR SPEECHLESS:** Frankly, I'd probably say, "Life is short, and so is this conversation. Goodbye!" Then I'd rejoin the friend I had been standing with. I certainly wouldn't prolong the conversation.

■ ■ ■

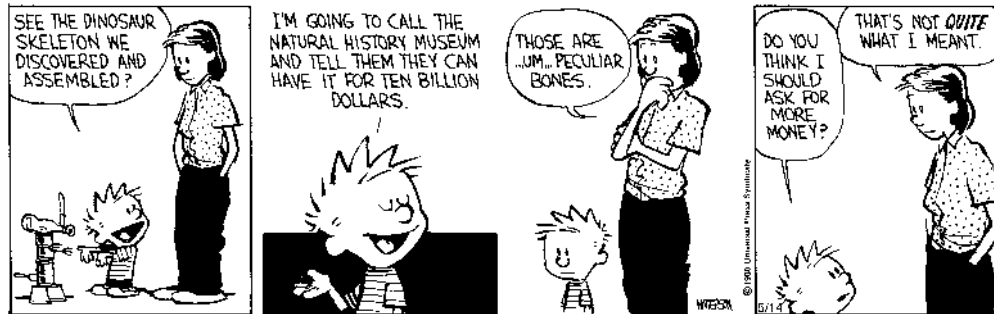
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



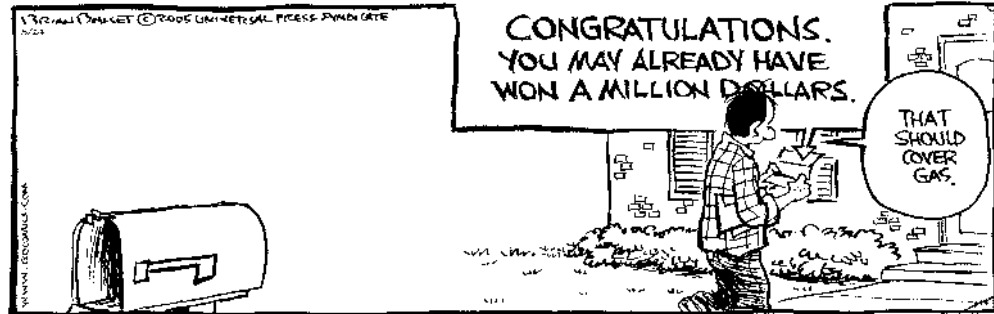
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

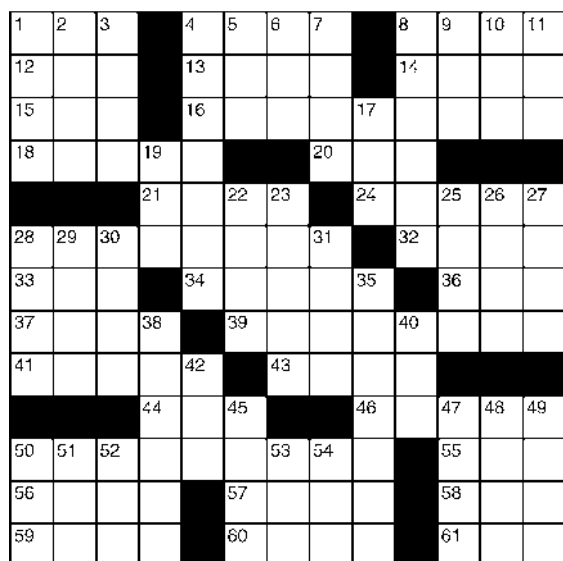
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Infinitesimal
- 4 — pro quo
- 8 Soothing agent
- 12 Scepter
- 13 "Do — others ..."
- 14 Notion
- 15 As well as
- 16 Charades player's task
- 18 Outguess
- 20 Trawler need
- 21 Alaskan city
- 24 Forest
- 28 On the road to extinction
- 32 Ontario neighbor
- 33 Moray, e.g.
- 34 Marsh birds
- 36 Buddhist sect
- 37 32-Across, for one
- 39 Dating
- 41 English composition
- 43 Slender
- 44 Vast expanse
- 46 Disconcerted
- 50 Spooning
- 55 Mimic
- 56 Exam format
- 57 React to yeast
- 58 Kan. neighbor
- 59 Say it isn't so
- 60 Winglike
- 61 Nevertheless
- 5 Auntie's man
- 6 Hirsute
- 7 Slay
- 8 Hallux
- 9 Commotion
- 10 Romanian money
- 11 Wrestling surface
- 17 Fresh
- 19 Larry King's employer
- 22 Synthesizer maker
- 23 Continental
- 25 Certain pasta
- 26 God, in Grenoble
- 27 Transmitted
- 28 Strike from the text
- 29 Favorable votes
- 30 Sorts
- 31 Do surveillance on
- 35 Brandy glass
- 38 With little effort
- 40 "Today" show rival, for short
- 42 Longing
- 45 Taj Mahal city
- 47 Wild and crazy
- 48 Duel tool
- 49 Creditor's concern
- 50 Chic, in the 1960s
- 51 "All the Things You —"
- 52 Topeka's st.
- 53 Lubricant
- 54 "Born in the —"

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 5-14



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Cate Blanchett, 39; Tim Roth, 47; David Byrne, 56; George Lucas, 64

**Happy Birthday:** It's time to enjoy yourself and reap the benefits of your hard labor. Travel, moves, networking and money will all play an important role in your life this year. With your steady climb over the years, you will finally have the recognition you deserve and desire. Your numbers are 2, 15, 17, 24, 32, 48

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** A challenge will lead to your victory. The more physical you are today, the better. By stimulating your body, mind and soul, it will be easier to strive for advancement in other areas of your life. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** A strong attraction to someone will lead you to think about your life and with whom you want to be. The more you do to make your life as perfect as possible, the better you will feel about your future. Change will be good so don't be afraid to implement it. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Secrets must be kept regardless of how much you want to share. Your emotional well-being will be compromised if you are unfaithful or insensitive. A meeting will lead to a decision. Consider who you might hurt in the process. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** The more time you spend with family, the better you will feel. This is the perfect time to refresh your surroundings or nurture your personal relationships. A change in the way you

do things or what you do for a living should be considered. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Avoid personal involvement with someone you deal with professionally. Problems will develop if you are too open about the way you feel and how you see things unfolding. Be honest and don't go against your morals or ethics. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** If you get involved in office politics or gossip, you will find out how destructive it can be. Avoid any meddling, scandal or involvement in other people's private affairs. By keeping a stellar reputation, advancement will find its way to you. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Interaction with friends, peers or people in an industry you'd like to get involved in will help you make a move toward your goals. Talks will enable you to express what you have to offer and how your talents can best be utilized. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Call in the forces: Ask for help to get the job done. A partnership may be on the line but, with a few minor adjustments, you can enhance what you already have with this person and move on to bigger and better goals. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** If you exaggerate or get involved in an emotional discussion, you could jeopardize your position or relationship. A sudden decision made by someone you rely on will leave you questioning his or her motives. \*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You can figure

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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out what's required to sort through problems with neighbors, relatives or friends. The more patient and understanding of everyone's needs you are, the more you have to gain. Real estate investments or moves could lead to prosperity. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Make up your own mind and refuse to let anyone railroad you into doing something you don't want to do or are questioning. A loved one may put you on the spot. Keep your thoughts, intentions or whereabouts secret. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Follow your instincts and base what you do on the way you feel. You must be true to yourself. A partnership can develop in many different ways but you have to make a serious decision before you travel into unknown territory. \*\*\*

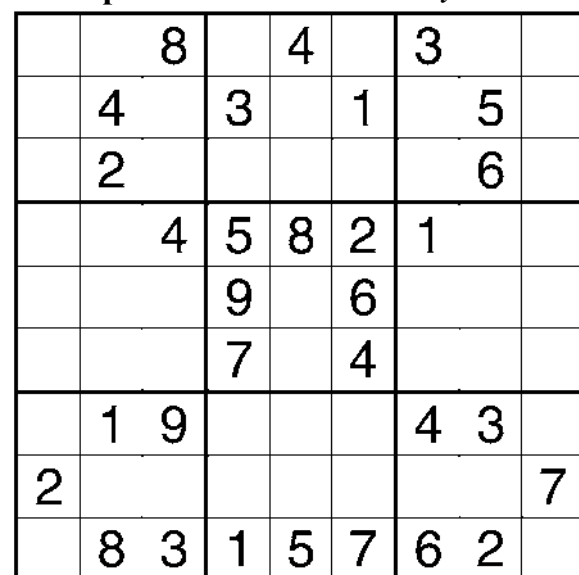
**Birthday Baby:** You are steady, patient and proud. You have drive and determination and are a master of organization and delegation.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

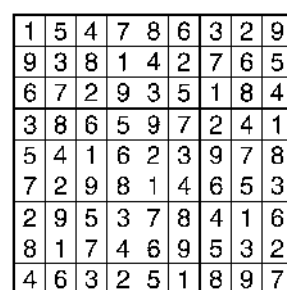


Difficulty Level ★★

5/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

5/14

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HERBAL REMEDIES

Solution: 6 letters



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5/14  
Aging, Aroma, Blend, Brain, Clearse, Colds, Condition, Cost, Cure, Detoxify, Energy, Folk, Fruits, Garlic, Ginseng, Harmony, Healers, Heart, Hope, Immunity, Leaf, Massage, Mints, Mixed, Natural, Nourish, Nuts, Oils, Organ, Pure, Quality, Recipe, Relief, Respiratory, Roots, Seed, Skin, Specialty, Spices, Strength, Teas, Tonic, Tree, Trendy, Vitality, Vitamins  
Yesterday's Answer: Security  
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WHATZIT Solution:  
Thin end of the wedge

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1st position	\$13.00
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**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publica-  
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Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will  
come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come  
out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be pub-  
lished on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to  
date of publication.

**Job Vacancy Announcements**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to  
date of publication.

**REFUNDS**

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No  
refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.  
PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW  
15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST  
BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.  
/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, D.V.M. /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Secretary, DLNR Director, P&S

**Northern Marianas College**  
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-5498  
Fax: (670) 234-1270 • Web site: www.nmcnet.edu  
**Special Board Meeting**  
Board of Regents Conference Room,  
NMC Saipan Campus  
Thursday, May 15, 2008  
3:30pm  
**AGENDA**  
I. Preliminary Matters  
A. Roll Call  
II. Public Comments/ Miscellaneous  
III. Old Business  
A. WASC Accreditation Update  
IV. New Business  
A. BOR Meeting Schedule  
B. Election of Vice-Chair  
V. Executive Session  
A. Legal Matters  
(At any time during the scheduled meeting the  
Board of Regents may be required to enter into  
executive session to discuss matters deemed  
privileged and confidential)  
VI. Adjournment  
/s/ Charles V. Cepeda May 13, 2008  
Acting Chairperson, Date  
Board of Regents

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**RFP08-CHC-067**  
**SUBMISSION: JUNE 06, 2008 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.**  
**“TO PROVIDE AN IMPROVED REDUNDANT**  
**COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER”**  
COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF SERVICES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN  
LOWER BASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.  
PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT  
RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED  
BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE  
PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.  
/s/ JOSEPH K.P.VILLAGOMEZ /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Secretary of Health Director, P&S

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**Apply in person at the Triple J Corporate Offices**  
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Current Driver's License and court or police clearance  
required upon submitting application.  
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**Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.**

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**WEDGE**  
Find today's solution in this section

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**235-NEWS**



# James, Cavs batter Celtics to even series



**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Back to even, and back to Boston—with authority. LeBron James scored 21 points, jamming in a powerhouse dunk over a defenseless Kevin Garnett in the final two minutes, as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the homesick Celtics 88-77 in Game 4 on Monday night to tie the best-of-seven series at 2-2.

Still stuck in a shooting slump, James dominated down the stretch and finished with 13 assists—four in the fourth quarter. The Cavaliers, whose defense has been overlooked, held the Celtics to just 12 points in the final period.

“We took care of home court and turned it into a three-game series,” James said.

Boston dropped to 0-5 on the road in the postseason, a stunning slip for a team that went 31-10 on the road during the regular season.

“It’s hard to say. I have no answer for it,” forward Ray Allen said.

During a short visit to Ohio, the Celtics lost their momentum in the series but will now head home, where they went 35-6 before the playoffs started.

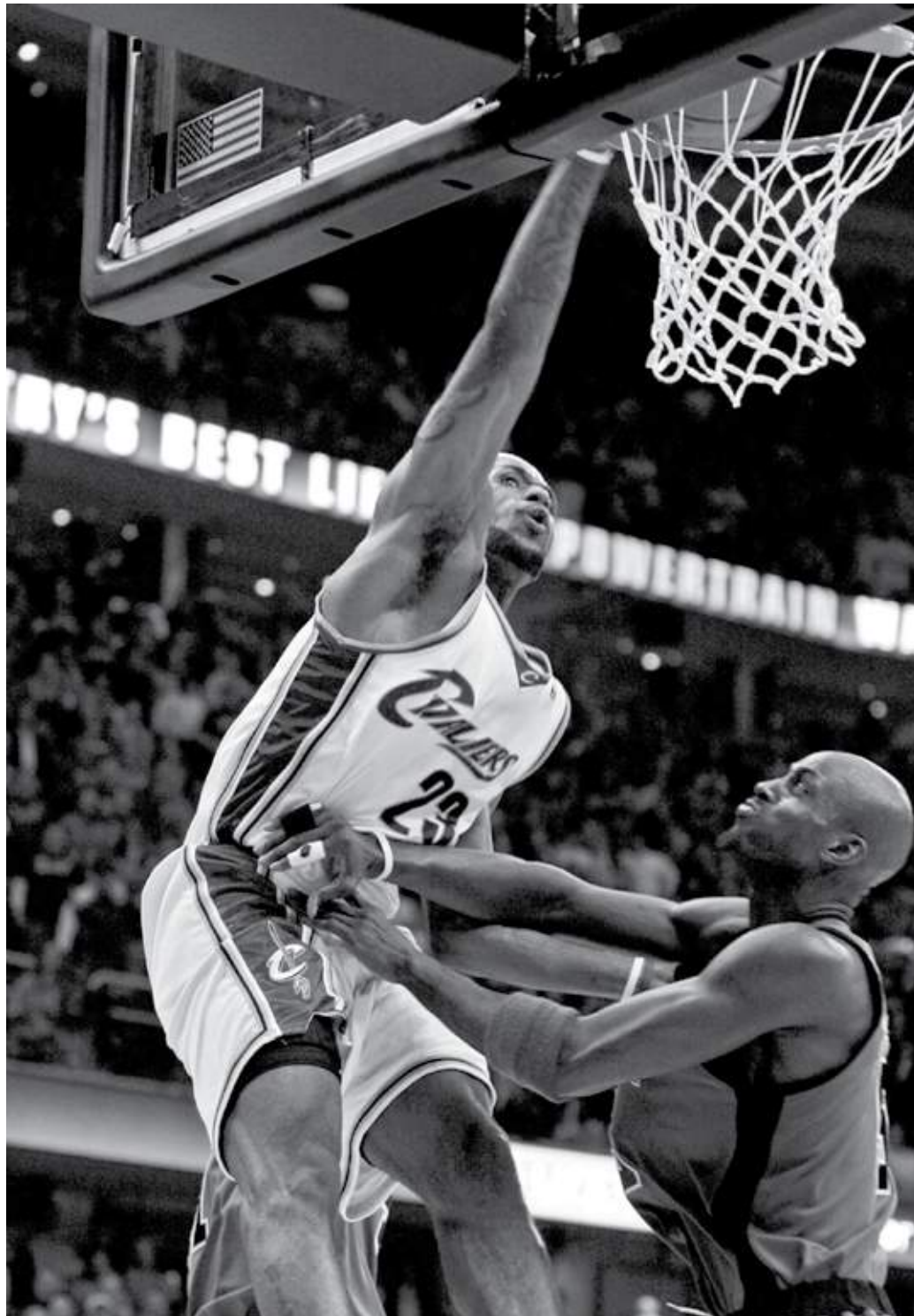
Game 5 is Wednesday night, and Game 6 will be back in Cleveland on Friday.

“We’re disappointed right now,” forward Paul Pierce said. “I had a lot of shots that I usually make, but I’m not going to really dwell on it.”

James was just 7-for-20 from the floor, but he did everything else for the Cavs, who are attempting to overcome an 0-2 deficit for the second time in two years.

In the final 8:45, James had four assists, a 3-pointer and a right-handed dunk that rattled Quicken Loans Arena and became the signature moment of this series.

With the Cavs leading 82-75, James drove past Pierce on a screen near the foul line, head faked past James Posey and then posterized Garnett, the league’s defensive player of the year. As Cavaliers fans erupted, a scowling James stormed back on defense.



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) dunks on Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett in the final two minutes of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals Monday, May 12, 2008, in Cleveland. AP

“I just wanted to be aggressive. I hadn’t had a play like that all series,” James said.

Although James is shooting only 20-of-78 (26 percent) from the floor, the only numbers the Cavs care about are the pair of 2s that show this series is as tight as possible.

Garnett scored 15 points, but only two in the second half, as Cavs forward Anderson Varejao harassed Boston’s All-Star all night. Allen had 15 points and

Pierce 13, but the Celtics’ Big Three were only a combined 16-of-40.

James missed his first six shots in the fourth before draining a 3-pointer in front of Boston’s bench with 3:17 remaining to give the Cavs a 79-73 lead. After the ball swished through the net, James made an it’s-about-time shrug.

After a bucket by Pierce, James dished to Daniel Gibson for a 3-pointer as the Cavs

opened a seven-point lead.

“They shot two big threes that were daggers,” Allen said.

At the other end of the floor, the Cavs swarmed all over the Celtics, giving the league’s best defensive team a dose of what they usually do to opponents. Cleveland contested every shot, and even when the Celtics had open looks, they missed.

Garnett inexplicably sat out the first five minutes of the fourth, and made just 2 of 9 shots after

going 4-for-4 in the first.

Gibson and Wally Szczerbiak added 14 points apiece, Varejao had 12 and made two awkward jumpers in the final 1:10 to put the Celtics away.

James was on the floor nearly three hours before tip-off, working on his outside shot with assistant coaches Chris Jent and Lloyd Pierce, who helped him with his jumper off high pick-and-rolls while ushers, security guards and other Cavs employees watched in the near-empty arena.

“Just trying to catch a rhythm,” James said.

It was the first time in this postseason that James came in before a game for extra work. He did it last year following two sub-par performances in the conference finals against Detroit, and rebounded to lead the Cavs to four straight wins.

Rivers has been warning his players not to get “mesmerized by LeBron, he’s good enough.” The Celtics made sure James never got too far from their sights, and when Cleveland’s All-Star got loose on a fastbreak, Paul Pierce wrapped his arms around him to prevent a possible dunk.

The players’ momentum carried them into a crowded front row, where James’ mother, Gloria, tried to help her son by grabbing at Pierce. James yelled at her to sit down.

James made both free throws to give Cleveland a 41-33 lead, but seconds later, he picked up his third foul and had to come out. With James on the bench, the Celtics pounced and scored eight straight to tie it before the Cavs went to the locker room up 45-43 at half.

When Garnett dropped his first jumper, former Celtics player and current broadcaster Cedric “Combread” Maxwell removed his headphones, rose out of his seat and screamed, “Get down in the box,” toward the floor below.

Garnett seemed to hear him as he scored nine of Boston’s first 11 points, doing most of his damage from inside the lane. But with Varejao fronting him, Garnett got few other good looks at the basket in the first half and was even quieter after halftime.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Bryant and Garnett lead NBA’s All-Defensive Team

NEW YORK (AP)—League MVP Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett were selected to the NBA All-Defensive Team on Monday, along with Marcus Camby, Bruce Bowen and Tim Duncan. Garnett, who helped the Boston Celtics to the league’s best record, was chosen for the ninth time. The forward was chosen Defensive Player of the Year last month. Bryant, who earned his eighth selection, and Garnett each received 24 first-place votes from the league’s 30 coaches. Coaches were not permitted to vote for their own players. Garnett led a defense that held opponents to 90.3 points per game and a league best .418 field goal shooting percentage. Camby had a league-leading 3.61 blocked shots per game for the Denver Nuggets and was second in rebounds (13.1 per game). Duncan, on the team for the 11th time, and Bowen, making the team for the eighth time, play for the San Antonio Spurs. The second team is Shane Battier of the Houston Rockets, Chris Paul of the New Orleans Hornets, Dwight Howard of the Orlando Magic, Tayshaun Prince of the Detroit Pistons and Raja Bell of the Phoenix Suns.

### Knicks set to introduce D’Antoni as coach Tuesday

NEW YORK (AP)—Mike D’Antoni wrapped up his negotiations with New York on Monday night and will be introduced as the Knicks’ new coach at a news conference Tuesday. The Phoenix coach agreed to take the Knicks job Saturday and was in New York on Monday to finalize terms of his contract, reported to be for \$24 million over four years. The Knicks called a news conference for 1 p.m. EDT at Madison Square Garden with D’Antoni and team president Donnie Walsh. D’Antoni replaces Isiah Thomas, who was fired last month after going 56-108 in two seasons. Walsh took time with his coaching search, waiting to see who would become available after the first round of the playoffs. The Suns gave D’Antoni permission to seek other jobs after losing to San Antonio in five games last month. The Knicks then beat out the Chicago Bulls for the services of D’Antoni, the NBA’s Coach of the Year in 2005 and regarded as one of the league’s premier offensive minds. D’Antoni led the Suns to a 232-96 regular-season record the past four years, winning at least 54 games each season with an uptempo offensive system that favors quick shots and 3-pointers. The Knicks don’t seem to have the personnel to run the system, but Walsh has said he knows it will take time to turn around a team that went 23-59 in its seventh straight losing season.

# Kobe’s sore back remains problem as Game 5 looms

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif.** (AP)—Kobe Bryant met the media Monday with a new companion—an electronic stimulation device hooked up to his sore lower back. Plans call for the two to spend a lot of time together for the next couple of days, or longer.

The Los Angeles Lakers’ star tweaked his back in the opening minutes of Sunday’s 123-115 overtime loss at Utah that tied the Western Conference semifinals 2-2.

“It’s pretty sore right now,” Bryant said Monday. “It’s tight. It’s to be expected the next day, I guess. I don’t know how I

made it through the game, to be honest with you.”

Bryant said he was receiving treatment around the clock.

“Secret stuff,” he replied with a smile when asked to be specific about the treatment.

Regarding the electronic stimulating device, Bryant said he had slept with it on Sunday night.

“It cuts down the pain,” he said. “How, I don’t know.”

The teams play Game 5 in the best-of-seven series Wednesday night at Staples Center, where the Lakers are 16-3 against the Jazz since the arena opened before the 1999-2000 season.

Bryant said he was just glad Game 5 wasn’t being played Tuesday.

“It was give me another day to recuperate,” he said. “I’ll be ready to play. I can’t imagine it being any worse than it was last night.”

Bryant conducted his post-game news conference standing up because of the discomfort in his back.

“I had to keep my poise to keep from yelling all kind of curse words,” he said.

Bryant shot just 13-for-33 including 1-for-7 in overtime while scoring 33 points.

“I just couldn’t elevate, get

enough space to knock down a jump shot,” he said. “When you have a back injury, you try not to re-injure it. I rarely hurt my back, I remember one time when I was 21.”

When asked if perhaps he shouldn’t have taken so many shots in overtime, what with the sore back, Bryant replied: “I got some pretty good looks, they didn’t fall for me.”

Pau Gasol, for one, had no problem with Bryant’s aggressiveness in the overtime period.

“He’s so competitive, he demands the ball no matter what he’s feeling,” Gasol said. “He

never hides. I respect the fact that he was playing. It’s hard to play with back problems. He played through it. We all have our injuries and things that bother us. We’re all going to have to tough it out, man up and win.”

Derek Fisher acknowledged the Lakers got away from what had been successful late in the fourth quarter, when they rallied from a 12-point deficit to force overtime.

“He did a great job of creating opportunities for other people down the stretch,” Fisher said. “That’s what we got away from in overtime.”



# Indians complete sweep of Blue Jays



**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Asdrubal Cabrera turned the 14th unassisted triple play in major league history, and it wasn't enough for the Cleveland Indians to complete a doubleheader sweep.

Shannon Stewart hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, Aaron Hill added a two-run single and the Toronto Blue Jays beat Cleveland 3-0 on Monday to salvage a split of the doubleheader.

The nightcap featured terrific pitching performances from Toronto's Shawn Marcum and Cleveland's Cliff Lee, who got a big assist from Cabrera in the fifth inning.

With Kevin Mench and Marco Scutaro on with singles, Cabrera made a diving backhand catch of a line drive by Lyle Overbay, touched second base to force Mench and then tagged out Scutaro.

Colorado shortstop Troy Tulowitzki made the last unassisted triple play in the majors, on April 29, 2007, against Atlanta. Oakland second baseman Randy Velarde last turned the trick in the American League, on May 29, 2000, against the Yankees.

Fausto Carmona (4-1) pitched a five-hitter and Cabrera hit a two-run homer in Cleveland's 3-0 victory in the first game. A.J. Burnett (3-4) lost the first game.

## Rays 7, Yankees 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Garza pitched seven scoreless innings and the surging Tampa Bay beat nemesis Andy Pettitte and the New York Yankees for their fifth consecutive victory.

Garza (2-1) allowed five hits, walked one and struck out three. Only one baserunner, Alberto Gonzalez in the sixth, reached as far as second base against the right-hander.

Jason Bartlett and Dioner Navarro each drove in two runs for the Rays (22-16), who climbed six games over .500 for the first time in franchise history and also extended their home winning streak 10 games.

## Twins 7, Red Sox 3

At Minneapolis, Livan Hernandez won again, Craig Monroe contributed another big hit, and Minnesota beat Boston.

Manny Ramirez finally went deep, hitting career homer No. 498 in the first inning for the Red Sox. The two-run shot was his second home run in 20 games.

Hernandez (6-1) rebounded after a rough start to finish six innings for another quality outing. The Twins are 8-1 when he's on the mound.

Red Sox starter Clay Buchholz (2-3) didn't make it out of the fifth, done in by control problems and timely hits by the Twins—who took three games from the Red Sox. Minnesota has won nine of its last 12 games and scored 74 runs in the process.

## Rangers 13, Mariners 12

At Arlington, Texas, the only real fireworks between Texas and Seattle this time were the pyrotechnic displays after back-to-back home runs by Josh Hamilton and Milton Bradley, and then the 10th-inning game-winning shot by Ramon Vazquez as the Rangers rallied to win.

Only four nights after Mariners first baseman Richie Sexson charged the mound and flung his helmet at Texas pitcher Kason Gabbard to ignite a

bench-clearing brawl, the AL West rivals met again. Sexson was with his team, but not playing while serving the third game of his five-game suspension for his actions. He'll miss the entire Texas series.

Vazquez's homer came on a 1-0 pitch with one out in the 10th off Brandon Morrow (0-1), who struck out the other four batters he faced.

runs, Nick Adenhardt recorded his first major league victory and the Angels beat the White Sox to snap a four-game losing streak.

Adenhardt (1-0) allowed four runs and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings, walking three and striking out one. Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his 15th save.

Jermaine Dye had four hits for the

Braves halted their seven-game road losing slide with a victory that concluded Monday's doubleheader.

In the opener, Freddy Sanchez hit a three-run double and Zach Duke pitched six shutout innings as the Pirates won 5-0 for their sixth consecutive win.

With Mark Kotsay and Brian McCann driving in three runs each, Atlanta avoided its first four-game sweep by Pittsburgh since Sept. 1-3, 1978. The Pirates' winning streak was their longest since they won 10 straight from June 25-July 5, 2004.

Hudson (6-2) held the Pirates to a lone single over his final six innings, finishing with five strikeouts and two walks. John Van Benschoten (0-2) took the loss.

In the opener, Duke (2-2) shook off five walks, three errors and five Braves hits to win.

## Reds 8, Marlins 7

At Cincinnati, Jeff Keppinger and Brandon Phillips hit two-run homers for Cincinnati in the seventh inning, breaking open a tied game and sending right-hander Aaron Harang to a win over Florida.

The Marlins arrived with a seven-game winning streak and the best record in the major leagues. Things looked good early, when they piled up three solo homers off Harang (2-5), including another one by Dan Uggla. Harang hadn't won since April 10, going 0-4 despite one solid performance after another.

Keppinger, the Reds' most consistent hitter, snapped a 4-all tie with his homer off Taylor Tankersley (0-1), who came in to start the seventh. Phillips later connected for his seventh homer.

## Nationals 10, Mets 4

At New York, Odalis Perez, making his ninth start without a victory, had

three hits and two RBIs and pitched into the seventh inning to lead Washington over New York.

On an unusually chilly night with winds gusting to more than 20 mph, Jesus Flores and Lastings Milledge each had two-run doubles and Washington ended a three-game slide by first taking advantage of wildness by Nelson Figueroa (2-3), then doing something they haven't been able to all season: get hits with runners on base.

Making his 200th career start, Perez (1-3) gave up a season-high 11 hits and four runs, but Washington scored at least four runs in one of his starts for just the second time this year.

## Cubs 12, Padres 3

At Chicago, Carlos Zambrano won his fifth straight decision and Alfonso Soriano homered in a six-run fifth inning as Chicago trounced San Diego for its fourth straight win.

Pitching with an extra day's rest after his start Sunday was scratched because of rainy conditions, Zambrano (6-1) allowed six hits and three runs in seven innings and also chipped in with his bat.

He doubled to start the Cubs' six-run outburst against Randy Wolf (2-3) and added a single in the sixth when Chicago tacked on five more runs.

## Brewers 8, Cardinals 3

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun hit two home runs for the second game in a row, and St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina and manager Tony La Russa both were ejected from Milwaukee's victory.

Braun followed up Sunday's two-homer performance by hitting two more off stingy Cardinals starter Adam Wainwright (3-2), who had given up four runs or less in his first seven starts and had a 2.25 ERA going into the game.

## Astros 7, Giants 3

At San Francisco, Hunter Pence hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the seventh, Lance Berkman had a tying two-run homer off Barry Zito and surging Houston beat San Francisco for its fourth straight win.

Roy Oswalt (4-3) retired the final 14 batters he faced to win his fourth straight decision since starting the season 0-3, and the right-hander struck out six in eight innings without giving up a walk.



Cleveland Indians second baseman Asdrubal Cabrera, right, looks towards pitcher Cliff Lee (not shown) after tagging out Toronto Blue Jays' Marco Scutaro, left, to complete an unassisted triple play in the fifth during the second game of their baseball double-header in Cleveland on Monday, May 12, 2008.

Seattle tied the game with four runs in the ninth, with Kenji Johjima capping that outburst with his first homer of the season, a three-run shot with two outs off closer C.J. Wilson that made it 12-12. Raul Ibanez had an RBI double earlier in the inning.

## Angels 10, White Sox 7

At Anaheim, California, Vladimir Guerrero homered and drove in four

White Sox, who scored two runs in the eighth against Chris Bootcheck and one in the ninth against Scot Shields before Francisco Rodriguez got the final two outs for his major league-leading 15th save.

## Braves 8, Braves 1

At Pittsburgh, Tim Hudson limited Pittsburgh to two hits and an unearned run over seven innings and the Atlanta

# Agency representing Mayo denies illegal activity



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The head of the sports agency representing O.J. Mayo denied any illegal activity involving the Southern California star on Monday, a day after ESPN reported Bill Duffy Associates gave cash to an event promoter who provided gifts.

"We are in contact with the NCAA and the Pac-10 and are working with both in a cooperative investigation to review these new allegations," USC said in a statement issued later in the day.

Mayo, who sat courtside for Game 4 of the Boston-Cleveland second-round playoff series Monday night, said he was hoping to get more information about the situation when he returned to school.

"I don't think it's good just because I'm really focused on the job, really wanting to do well on my workouts and

my preparation, but at the same time it's kind of a road block, another obstacle," Mayo told The Associated Press. "I just want to get to the bottom of it and just find out what's really going on."

Louis Johnson, a former associate of Mayo's, told ESPN's "Outside the Lines" that BDA Sports provided Rodney Guillory with about \$200,000 before Mayo arrived at USC. Johnson said a portion of that money was given to Mayo.

"I haven't seen any evidence of them saying we gave O.J. Mayo a dime, and that has not happened," Duffy told the AP. "I don't see any evidence of any other type of transaction. This is what this guy is saying. Obviously his credibility should be in question as well."

Mayo has declared for the NBA draft and hired BDA Sports' Calvin Andrews as his agent. ESPN reported Sunday that Mayo received about \$30,000 and

other benefits while in high school and during his lone season at USC, then entered into a verbal agreement that allowed the agency to represent him when he turned pro.

But Duffy said he only recently met Mayo, and only knew Guillory through the player.

"That's what's crazy. I met O.J. Mayo for the first time like three weeks ago. I met him once before that in Vegas, I ran into him during USA Basketball for like 30 seconds. He was running to a car, I was coming into a hotel, somebody introduced us, we shook hands and that was it. This is the first time I've actually formally met him."

A message left Monday night for Guillory was not immediately returned, and Johnson could not be located for comment.

NBA commissioner David Stern said

the league can work with the NCAA, shoe companies, USA Basketball, and high school and coaches associations to protect the athletes.

"Maybe this is the opportunity to do more education about what's right and what's wrong, who to trust and who not, and what the risks are for making bad decisions," Stern said in Cleveland. "It's not our primary sort of role here, but we understand there is a role to be played."

NCAA rules prohibit giving college athletes money or other gifts. Johnson, who claims he didn't get paid, also gave ESPN receipts and invoices for many of the purchases.

"From what I can see, those receipts were from his purchases," Duffy said. "We had nothing to do with that. I don't even know who this Lou Johnson guy is."



# Demapan's qualifying score stands

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Joe Demapan was declared champion of Refeluwash Golf Association's May Ace of the Month Tournament after none of the 16 players that teed up last Saturday eclipsed his qualifying score.

The former Department of Public Works Secretary fired a net 65 at the Laolao Bay Golf

Resort a couple of weeks prior to the actual May Ace also held at the Kagman venue.

The one that came closest was Ulysses Kapileo who came away with a net 67. He achieved the runner-up gross of 91 last weekend after carding a 46 in the front and a 45 in the back.

Tars Olopai came in third. He shot a net 71 built around a 42 and 41 in the back for a gross of 83. Olopai holds a 12 handicap.

Bill Kaipat claimed fourth place but not after beating even-

tual fifth-placer Joe Lizama in a tiebreak. Both players scored an identical net 72.

The other 13 players that took part in the competition, with their net scores in parenthesis, are RGA president Adam Hardwicke (73), tournament director Jess Wabol (74), John Mettao (75), Tony Rogolifoi (75), Astorio Tawanpiy (76), Jordan Kos-sam (77), Louie Tilipao (79), Joe Demapan (81), new member Michael Stewart (82), Ben Duenas (85), Joe Mafnas (88),

and Don Fitial (97).

In the closest to the pin competition, Wabol ruled hole No. 3, while Kaipat was without peer in hole No. 13.

In related news, RGA reminded the public that the club has halved its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of \$50 to only \$25.

This happened after RGA recognized the hard economic times and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of

becoming part of RGA.

The club hopes that by making membership in RGA a little lighter in the pocket, more weekend warriors will now return to the golf links and renew their membership or apply as new members of the golf club.

For more information about RGA's new membership policies and other competitions held by the club, contact Hardwicke at 483-2326 or Wabol at 233-3673.

## Eight teams advance to next round

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The 16-team field in the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Cup was trimmed down to half as the season-ending tournament enters its final two weeks.

The eight teams are expected to go down to four after yesterday's games held in various bars on the island. Results of the matches were not yet available at press time.

Moving on into the quarter-final round are regular season champion SaipanCell-Krystal Perfect Spot Hustlers after squeezing out a 4-3 win in their knockout match last week.

With the score tied at 3-3 after the five singles matches and the opening doubles, Jerry Soriano and Erwin Gomez gave the Hustlers the win after scoring a 2-0 sweep of Luis Fajardo and Ryan Odicta in the final doubles.

Joining the Hustlers are Len's 5 Bad Boyz after a 4-0 blanking of USSP Fotten Palau, while Porky's Wild Hogs also squeezed out a 4-3 win over Coral Reef Shark Attack.

USSP Wat-Ever and the VFW Warriors scored similar 4-2 wins over Krystal Perfect Spotters and Lens 5 Amigos, while Wild Bill's Snipers and Godfather's Magas also made it to the next round after pulling off identical 4-1 decisions against Coral Reef Barracuda and Wild Bill's Snipers.

The surviving two teams will battle for the title on May 27 after the May 20 semifinals.

The 2008 Winter/Spring SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League awards banquet will be held on June 8 at 11am at Pacific Island Club's Charley's Cabaret in San Antonio. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for kids.

For more information, call league coordinator Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397.

# Five flights up for grabs in San Roque golf

Five flights will be up for grabs when the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual San Roque Golf Tournament tees off on June 28 at the Marianas Country Club Golf Resort in Marpi.

The tournament, which is a fundraiser for the church on the northern part of Saipan, will feature Championships, A, B,

C, Ladies, and Seniors flights.

This early organizers have already promised that the tournament will be a fulfilling competition for all that participate.

"This year promises to be a rewarding experience for all golfers as prizes and trophies will be awarded in [all five flights]," a

statement from the San Roque Parish Council read.

Money raised from the golf tournament this year will be used for planned improvements to the San Roque Church's social hall.

"The generosity and participation of those who have made this tournament as their pilgrim-

age for the last 13 years are most welcomed. The San Roque Parish invites those who have not played this event to join this year," the San Roque Parish Council added.

Tee time is set at 12pm with registration set from 10am to 11:30am.

The San Roque Parish Council is also accepting donations in the form of cash or in-kind for prizes. For donations, call Fr. Bong Lopez at 322-2404 or 285-9121, Tony Cabrera at 322-0417, Felix Sasamoto at 322-1889 or any member of the San Roque Parish Council.

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol won the 13th Annual San Roque Golf Tournament held in May 27, 2007, at the Marianas Country Club Golf Resort in Marpi.

Wabol took the top plumb despite firing a two-over par 74 following a 34 in the front and a 40 in the back performance.

Other winners last year were Rick Kautz of A Flight, Fr. Manny Corcuera of B Flight, James N. Babauta of C Flight, Kim Jeong Mi of Ladies Flight, and Joe Sablan of Seniors Flight. (Mark Rabago)

## Talk 'N Text subdues Ginebra

MANILA, Philippines—Playing with a lot of energy after being upset by Welcoat the last time out, the Talk n Text Phone Pals are back in the coattails of the pacesetting Red Bull Barakos and the Coca-Cola Tigers.

The Pals outclassed a struggling Barangay Ginebra squad practically on all fronts and carved out an emphatic 105-95 triumph to jack up their stocks at

third place in the 2007-08 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum Sunday night.

Mark Cardona was a huge inspiration for Talk n Text while Mark Caguioa was a big letdown for Ginebra early on.

Cardona, Talk n Text's leading local scorer averaging 18.6 points before the contest, rifled

in 14 just in the first half leading the Pals in an early break-away en route to their sixth win in nine outings.

Caguioa hit his average—24 points—but didn't make his baskets until it was a little late.

Also getting tremendous lift from Aaron McGhee and Jimmy Alapag, the Pals led by as many as 28 in the first half and



## SEVEN

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points, 13-2.

Gracie Barra's Jay "Taby" Muna settled for the bronze when he defeated Guam's Guy Blanco by choke-hold with 2:18 left in the clock.

Chris Layug completed a Trench Tech sweep in the 131-140 lb. featherweight division when he defeated teammate Jay "Furbs" Santos in points, 10-0.

"Badd"Brad Palacios, who is also from Trench Tech, won the bronze after beating Ellis Miller of Gracie Barr via triangle choke submission with 4:32

gone in the clock.

James Fleming prolonged Trench Tech's success when he blanked Zogai's Buddy Igitol, 4-0, in the gold medal match in the super lightweight class while Trench Tech's Sixtus Aquino scored a 9-5 win over T.J. Castro in the battle for the bronze.

Veteran MMA fighter Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan breezed through a 12-2 win over Fasi Jesse in the battle for gold in the lightweight class, while Nathan "Nats" Flores of Gracie Barra settled for the bronze after using a triangle choke to force Robert Salas into submission with 3:15 left in the clock.

Ken "Kamakazi" Tanzawa led another Trench Tech sweep in the welterweight division squeezing out a 12-10 win over teammate Nick Schumake in their gold medal game.

Tom Kim, another Trench Tech warrior, pulled off a 4-0 win over Rusty Ada to settle for the bronze.

Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo ended Trench Tech's gold medal rush when he needed six minutes to score a 2-0 win over Jason Tarkong in the middleweight divisions' gold medal bout.

Trench Tech's Kyle Peterson won the bronze when he forced Gracie Barra's Pete Mendiola to tap out in 3:21 via arm-lock

submission.

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial remains one of the top heavyweight division fighters, winning the gold by beating Joe Ocampo of Trench Tech via rear-naked choke with 3:14 used on the clock.

Team Xtreme's "Kill" Bill Saures pulled off an overtime win over Anthony Sablan winning in OT via coin toss.

In the superfight with gi, Trench Tech Purebred Gym co-instructor Tetsuji Kato scored an 12-2 win over The Pound Guam's Luis "The Shredder" Blanco to advance into the superfight finale.

In the no gi category, Roman "Sacho" Dela Cruz of Fokai Industries advanced to the superfight

in the consolation match.

Loyola would like to thank all parents for the continuous support they give to their kids, and the Tan and Izuka families.

For more information, call Loyola at 285-3135 or email pblolyola@yahoo.com.

## TAN

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tion round to earn the first finals berth. He made it 2-0 against Rhee in the finals cruising to an 8-0 decision.

## TIGERS

From Page 28

due to foul trouble, bounced back and built a double-digit advantage in the second quarter for a 44-34 halftime lead.

The Titans battled back in the third period to set up the thrilling finale.

In the second game, Dennis

Espiritu led four other players who finished in double figures as the Bert Gapasin-coached Finance/Shipping coasted to a 99-70 win over FO/Housekeeping.

Espiritu paced Finance/Shipping with 20 points, while Louie Malimban and Max Piol added 18 and 16 more. Two other players finished with 16 markers.

FO/Housekeeping's Gabby Cajayon and Joel Miranda be-

came spectators in the one-sided contest as they could not do anything to trim Finance/Shipping's big lead.

One game was held on Saturday with the F&B Chefs trouncing Security Department, 85-67. On Thursday, May 8, the Tigers pulled off an 85-81 win over the Chefs, while the Titans waltzed to a 99-63 triumph against FO/Housekeeping.

**F&B Service Tigers 73** – Sabordo 35, Fernandez 30, Flores 3, Pavino 3, Gilber 2.

**Casino Titans 72** – Camero 20, Reyes 17, Ramirez 12, Advincula 7, Awa 7, Manguera 4, Gurung 2, Que 2, Sablan 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-23, 44-34, 54-53, 73-72.

**Referees:** Don Sarmiento, Romy Libut, and MarioMorilla.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	24	17	.585	—
Tampa Bay	22	16	.579	1/2
Baltimore	19	19	.500	3 1/2
New York	19	20	.487	4
Toronto	18	22	.450	5 1/2

#### Central Division

Minnesota	20	17	.541	—
Cleveland	19	19	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	18	19	.486	2
Kansas City	16	21	.432	4
Detroit	16	22	.421	4 1/2

#### West Division

Oakland	23	16	.590	—
Los Angeles	23	17	.575	1/2
Texas	19	21	.475	4 1/2
Seattle	15	25	.375	8 1/2

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Florida	23	15	.605	—
Philadelphia	21	18	.538	2 1/2
New York	19	17	.528	3
Atlanta	19	18	.514	3 1/2
Washington	16	23	.410	7 1/2

#### Central Division

Chicago	23	15	.605	—
St. Louis	23	17	.575	1
Houston	22	17	.564	1 1/2
Milwaukee	19	19	.500	4
Pittsburgh	18	20	.474	5
Cincinnati	16	23	.410	7 1/2

#### West Division

Arizona	23	15	.605	—
Los Angeles	19	18	.514	3 1/2
San Francisco	16	23	.410	7 1/2
Colorado	15	23	.395	8
San Diego	14	25	.359	9 1/2

#### Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 5, Atlanta 0, 1<sup>st</sup> game  
Atlanta 8, Pittsburgh, 2<sup>nd</sup> game  
Washington 10, N.Y. Mets 4  
Cincinnati 8, Florida 7  
Chicago Cubs 12, San Diego 3  
Milwaukee 8, St. Louis 3  
Houston 7, San Francisco 3  
Cleveland 3, Toronto, 1<sup>st</sup> game  
Toronto 3, Cleveland 0, 2<sup>nd</sup> game  
Minnesota 7, Boston 3  
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 1  
Texas 13, Seattle 12, 10 innings  
L.A. Angels 10, Chicago White Sox 7

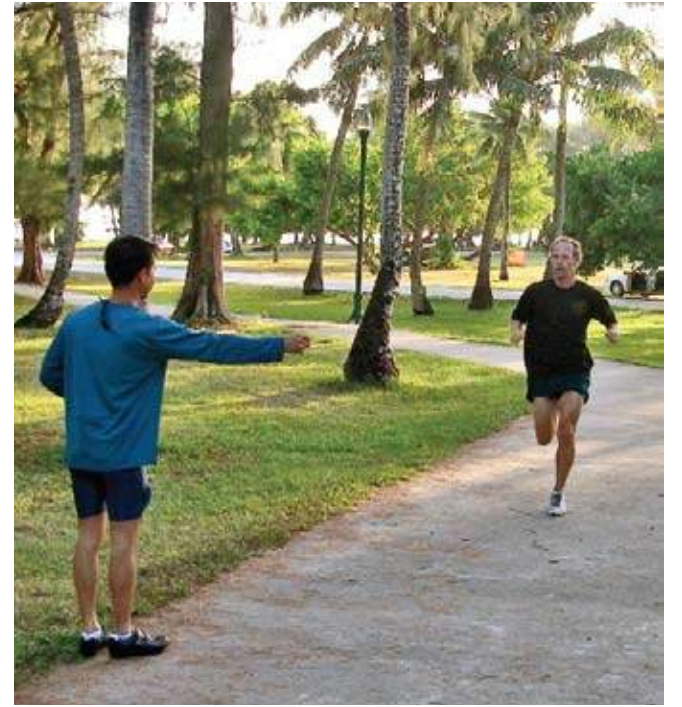
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Villafria grateful for support in fundraising run



Participants of the 5K Fun Run pose for a group photo before the start of the race.



Eli Torgeson nears the finish line during Sunday's Run For Ron 5K Fun Run at Micro Beach inside the American Memorial Park.

By JON PEREZ

Photos by JON PEREZ and RONILO AÑO  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Ronald Villafria thanked all who supported him in his five-kilometer fun run held last Sunday inside the American Memorial Park.

Dubbed "Run For Ron," the 5-kilometer fun run and walk was Villafria's fundraising event for his scheduled trip to Tokyo, Japan, where he will compete together with lawyer Steve Pixley in the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon or Fuji Tozan race on July 25.

A total of 120 signed up for the race with 70 taking part in the actual run. The remaining 50 opted to donate the \$10 to Villafria's scheduled Japan trip.

Eli Torgeson and Maimi Shimizu won the men's and women's open division and they took home first-place trophies and cool Hard Rock Café denim jackets.

Sixteen-year-old long-distance runner Matthew Mancao and Tamio Nishikido finished second to Torgeson and Shimizu, while Miek Carey and Suzy Kindel rounded up the top male and female finishers.

Age group finishers were brothers Lester Lapuz and Rowel Pamaran (18-and-under male); Jodel Fernandez (18-and-under female); Fernan Capillan, Rick Villanueva, and Jay Boado (19-29 male); Emily Gries (19-29 female); Lewie Tenorio, Alberto Cataina, and Butch Sublemente (30-39 male); Zandra Um (30-39 female); Florence Antonio, Cesar Danao, and Ireneo Isip (40-49 male); Dawn Hammermeister (40-49 female); and Steve Pixley, Chang Wan Jang, and Rene Calage (50-59 male), and Phyllis Hammermeister (50-59 female).

Villafria's regular customers at Coco Restaurant also donated money to help him raise funds to defray the cost of his plane ticket to Japan.

Hard Rock Café, Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation, Pacific Islands Club, LBT Appraisal, Saipan Grand Hotel, Auto Glass Pro, Filipino Bikers Association, Marianas Trekking, Capricciosa and Tony Roma's, Johnny's Bar, Godfather's, Jazy Sports Wear Guam, and the *Saipan Tribune* also supported Villafria along with lawyer Pixley, Eli Arago, Ariel Mariano, Susan Espanillo, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Coco's Restaurant, Tan Holdings Legal Department, Shirley's Coffee Shop, CTSI, DFS Galleria, SaipanCell Communications, Coca-Cola Micronesia, PTI, and Marianas Brokers Inc.



Ronald Villafria, center, joins Hard Rock Café officials, from left, HRC sales and marketing supervisor Sayaka Torii, HRC operations manager Aldwin Cullat, HRC retail supervisor Lani Angeles, and HRC restaurant supervisor Danilo Yuso for a group photo at HRC's store inside DFS Galleria in Garapan.



Women's overall finisher Maimi Shimizu, right, poses with her trophy and Hard Rock Café denim jacket.



Men's 19-29 age group winner Fernan Capillan, right.



Lewie Tenorio, right, poses with Ronald Villafria. Tenorio topped the men's 30-39 division.



Phyllis Hammermeister, left, receives her prize from Ronald Villafria. Hammermeister won the women's 50-59 age group.



Emily Gries, left, receives her prize from event organizer Ronald Villafria after ruling the women's 19-29 age group.





### Villafria grateful for support in fundraising run

Ronald Villafria thanked all who supported him in his five-kilometer fun run held last Sunday inside the American Memorial Park.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

### James, Cavs batter homesick Celtics to even series

Back to even, and back to Boston—with authority. LeBron James scored 21 points, jamming in a powerhouse dunk over a defenseless Kevin Garnett in the final two minutes.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Seven victorious in Art of War

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

## TRENCH TECH

Seven mixed martial arts athletes emerged victorious in Saturday's Art of War II All Islands Grappling/Submission Tournament held at the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym's new home in San Antonio.

More than 30 grapplers and submission artists joined the one-day event where titles in seven weight categories were offered. The weight divisions were divided into the bantamweight, featherweight, super lightweight, lightweight, welterweight, middleweight, and heavyweight.

Trench Tech's Shane "Pika Boo" Alvarez led the list of winners when he won the gold in the bantamweight division, beating Team Guam's Joel Valencia by

See SEVEN on Page 26



"Badd" Bradd Palacios, bottom, tries to pin down Ellis Miller in their featherweight division match in Saturday's Art of War II All Island Grappling and Submission at the Trench Tech Purebred Gym in San Antonio.



Gracie Barra's Jay "Taby" Muna tries to slam Guam's Guy Blanco in their bantamweight match in Saturday's Art of War II All Island Grappling and Submission at the Trench Tech Purebred Gym in San Antonio.

## Tan remains Loyola Tennis champion

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Lydia Tan continues to lord it over in the women's Class A of the Loyola Tennis Tournament held Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

Tan swept her games to remain as the class A champion for the third time, a title that she first won in the inaugural tournament last year. She bested Melanie Daly and Yuri Hatamata the previous two.

She first scored an easy win

against Hatamata, 8-1, in round-robin play then survived Daly's gallant stand in an 8-5 triumph.

Long rallies and a mixture of shots highlighted the Tan-Daly match where the former's will to win and stamina withstood her opponent's gutsy plays.

Tan now has three class titles. She first won the title scoring an 8-6 victory over Daly on May 6, 2007, and repeated again on Dec. 2, 2007, with another 8-6 win over Daly.

It was also Tan's third straight finals win against Daly. Hatamata placed third.

In the class B, Sakiko Eda de-

feated three other players to win her first title. She placed third in both tournaments last year.

Vicki Izuka pushed Eda to the limit before bowing out in an 8-7 (7-5) tiebreak. She also defeated Mayling Colombo, 8-6.

Colombo placed third after an 8-5 win over Karen Sato.

Last week, Chris Park and Sakura Imaya won their second age group titles in the 13-and-under boys division and the girls' 9-and-under class.

Park scored consecutive wins over Chris Cepeda, Jeron Año, and Grant Rhee in the elimina-

See TAN on Page 26



Peter Loyola, left, joins winners of the Loyola Tennis Tournament for a group photo after Sunday's finals at the Fiesta Resort & Spa tennis courts.

## Tigers slip past Titans in Tinian Dynasty caging

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Defending champion Food and Beverage Service Tigers slipped past Casino Titans, 73-72, in the 7th Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League on Sunday at the TDHC staff house court.

It was the fourth straight win for the Tigers in as many games while it was the first loss for the Titans after winning their first two games.

The game was also a long-awaited match up between two of the hottest teams in the league in what many observers are saying might be a finals preview. The top honchos of both departments joined their employees in watching the thrilling match.

F&B Service hung on to a four-point in the final two minutes of the game with Charlie Fernandez and Noel Sabordo keeping their team afloat with their timely baskets putting pressure on the Titans.

Titans' prized-find 6'3" rookie Ringo Reyes and 6'2" Ronan Awa powered their way inside the paint to keep Casino within striking distance with the Tigers.

But Casino lost Awa and Reyes in the final 60 seconds of the match that ended their upset bid. Awa had to leave the game after being accidentally hit in the eyebrow during a rebound battle, while Reyes was whistled with his sixth foul after giving an illegal screen.

Veteran Elias Camero stepped up big time for the Titans hitting back-to-back 3-pointers after two missed attempts by the Tigers to momentarily grab the lead, 71-69.

Sabordo tied the game at 71-all while Fernandez grabbed the loose ball after a Titans miss and was fouled in the play. Fernandez made both free throws for a 73-71 lead.

Casino went on fastbreak mode at the other end with Camero being fouled with two seconds left in the clock. Camero, feeling the pressure of the match, split his charities and the Tigers grabbed the rebound as time expired to escape with the win.

It was a battle of spurts in the first half with Casino enjoying an early 10-point lead but the Tigers, with the Titans Reyes and Earl Manguera riding the bench

See TIGERS on Page 26

## NMIFA sets tryouts for CNMI U14 National Team



The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is currently holding tryouts for its 14-and-under team set to play a series of international matches in Guam in a couple of months.

The tryouts are held Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 4:30pm to 6pm and every Saturday from 8:30am to 10am at the San Antonio Elementary School.

The tryouts are open for both new and experienced football players. Candidates must have a current passport that doesn't expire in six months and must not turn 15 years old for the rest of the year.

The CNMI U14 National Team will head to Guam to play seven international matches from July 4 to 11 in U.S. territory.

National coach Nick Swaim said the team will be selected at the end of the month and players making the team will travel to Guam all-expenses paid to play the matches. All levels are welcome, with a good attitude and hard work ethic, according to Swaim.

If interested please contact Swaim at 235-0173 or show up to San Antonio Elementary School and introduce yourself. (NMIFA)